



Window on Jordan

By Marwan Asmar
Star Staff Writer

WE'VE BEEN talking about it long enough. Will it happen? Will the boycotters succeed, or will they be side-stepped and end up on the periphery of history? The start of the election campaign last week has really and truly ended speculations on whether the elections will take place or not. The countdown for the 4 November elections cannot

be stopped now. But since this is no longer the a priori for argument, the shift is now on the issues being handled by the candidates—more than 500 of them. What is interesting in any vintage electioneering campaign, is its indigenous character. Our streets, roads, bridges roundabouts and public squares have all become innocent targets for election banners—banners that promise to spice up our

otherwise mundane life for the next few weeks or so. In fact, this quaint Jordanian phenomena is today found in every nook and cranny in the Kingdom. North, south, east, west, they are all hoisted up, in between lamp posts, screaming at you, enticing you to make some sort of judgment. Unlike campaigns in the West, where public rallies are at the heart of every candidate's strat-

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For the liberation of all
occupied lands



The Star

Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

Le
Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

● A l'appel de la tribu
● Plus de 6000 clochards
et mendiants en Jordanie
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Supplément

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AMMAN, 16-22 OCTOBER 1997, VOLUME 8, NUMBER 21, 350 fils

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Campaign slogans reflect moderation; promise a 'docile' Lower House

By Raed Al Abed

Star Staff Writer
NO LESS than 560 candidates are busy waging their election campaign all over the Kingdom for the 80-seat 13th Parliament which will be filled on 4 November.

The campaigns are about slogans and promises, ambitious promises that range from a pledge to feed all the hungry mouths to the usual oath of "liberating Palestine from the river to the sea."

The election campaign is being waged in all 21 electoral districts. Seventeen women candidates have joined the race.

However, this election is different from previous ones: The absence of the biggest Islamic opposition party, the IAF, is the most to be felt. In the last parliament they held 17 seats, nine seats less than the first parliament of 1989.

This year's elections are the first to take place after the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty was passed as law. It is the second multi-party elections since the beginning of the democratic process in 1989 and the second under the controversial single vote system.

Reading the shape of the coming Lower House through the slogans splashed on the ubiquitous campaign banners, observers think the 13th parliament will be "a docile" House, since the majority of candidates have opted for moderate and realistic slogans that are less harsh on the government and its policies, focusing instead on general morals and principles. But some candidates are critical of the peace process and oppose normalization with Israel.

Most banners focus on providing basic services and deal with social and economic ills such as fighting unemployment and poverty, providing health insurance for citizens,

and improving the infrastructure in poor areas.

However, the famous "Islam is the solution" slogan has disappeared from the streets of Amman and Zerqa—the strong bases of the Islamists. Streets were empty from slogans promoting the spirit of Jihad to defend the Ummah's interests. Independent Islamists, who are running in the elections, opted to talk about Islam's social morals.

One banner, belonging to independent Islamists, Thelb Abdallah, says "Take Islamic morals into your heart to build the Islamic state on your land." He is contesting a seat in Amman's 1st district.

But, some banners are calling for the lifting of sanctions on Libya and Iraq and boycotting Israeli products. These belong to candidates of the Jordanian Arab Ba'th Socialist Party. Last week they protested the removal of some of their anti-Israeli by the government.

Also, banners that talk about combating corruption were also missing, from the race, although some candidates, like former minister and candidate Ali Abu Al Raghib, Amman's 3rd district, promised to "safeguard public money."

Observers say that the absence of the opposition, especially the Islamists who are joined by eight leftist and pan-Arab parties, professional associations, cultural and women organizations, has cast its shadow on the election campaign.

Daily newspapers, which traditionally make good money from campaign advertisements, say speeding by candidates is negligible compared to previous campaigns.

Observers argue that candidates seem to fully know their actual abilities and thus preferred to resort to moderate

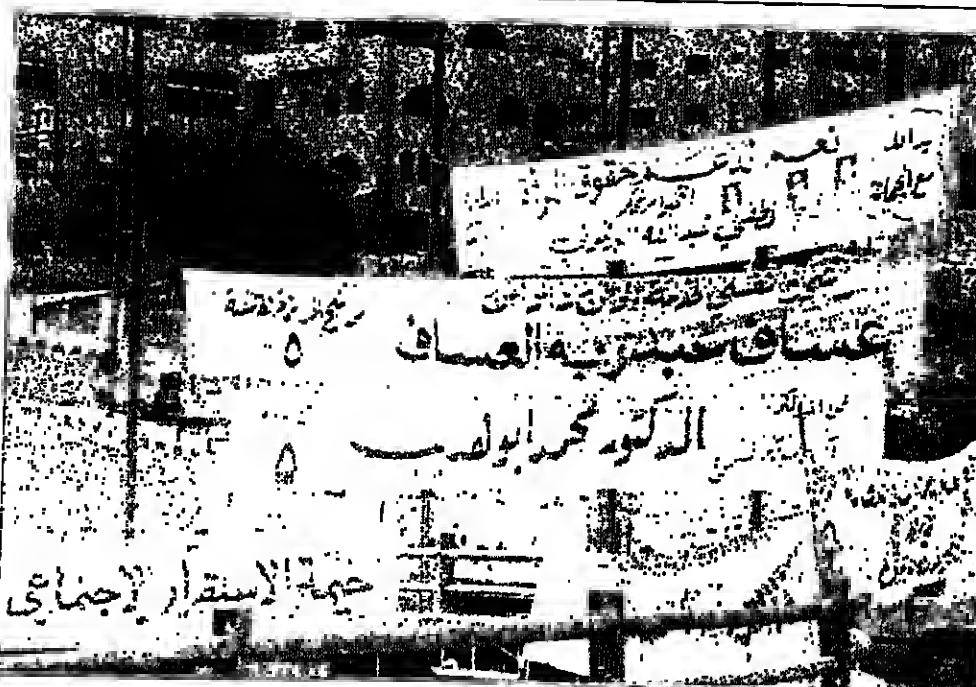
slogans to promote themselves and attract voters—on top of that to avoid political headaches.

The Ministry of Interior has issued instructions allowing banners to be placed and announced that the election campaign will begin on Friday, 10 October, and will last for three weeks.

The law prevents candidates from making any financial incentives to voters and inflicts penalties against voters who solicit their votes.

The government maintains that the elections will be honest and fair. Informed sources at the Ministry of Interior say the Ministry will launch a major TV network links in all electoral districts in Jordan to transmit vote counting and announce results.

Total costs of the project are estimated at \$1 million, covering 26 TV units to be fixed in all places and linked to the Jordan satellite channel and Arab Sat.



Political parties' presence in campaign seen as marginal

By Raed Al Abed

Star Staff Writer
THE 4 November elections will not only decide the shape of the 13th parliament but it will be a vote on Jordan's eight-year-old democratic process, observers believe. The government will be working overtime to encourage the majority of the 1.9 million registered voters to vote. It will hope to get no less than half of the eligible voters to participate. On the other hand, the Islamist-led opposition camp, which is boycotting the

elections, will see if their decision to abstain will turn the polling day into a political watershed for the government.

Initial estimates show that 90 percent of the about 560 candidates are independent runners, mostly representing tribes and clans, while candidates from political parties form only four percent—compared to 12 percent in the previous elections. However, female participation has increased slightly from two percent in the 1993 elections to

three percent this year.

Only six political parties are contesting the elections with a total of 22 candidates, including candidates fielded by three opposition parties of the so-called "conditional participation parties" who decided to run although their prior conditions were not met by the government.

The Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is fielding five candidates. It has a radical line, rejecting any form of peace with Israel. The 50-year

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Doha summit to convene in spite of opposition

By Iham Sadeq

Star Staff Writer
THE DISPUTE over whether the Doha economic summit will take place or not has finally been settled. The host country, Qatar, is sending invitations to participants to attend the venue, now scheduled to take place between 16-18 November. Over the last two months talks between Arab states have focused on the possibility of postponing or even cancelling the summit. Some Arab countries, led by Saudi Arabia and Syria, have called for a boycott if the conference is convened.

Egypt, however, still makes its participation conditional to further positive steps in the peace process.

With these developments, the summit, called the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit, has taken a political dimension rather than a purely economic one. The Doha summit follows three others that were held in Casablanca, Amman and Cairo.

Reasons behind the calls of some Arab countries to either cancel, postpone or boycott the event are linked to Israel's hardline policy that led to setbacks in the peace process.

The political arena in the Middle East has, for the last few weeks, seen a series of

rapid developments, providing opponents with fresh ammunition to further their call for a postponement. But under US pressure, Qatar has now taken the final step and issued the invitation letters. Analysts believe the regional view is now gearing up to encourage participation in the summit.

Observers feel optimistic that the release of Hamas leader Sheikh Yassin from Israeli jails together with prisoners who were set free after his arrival in Gaza have contributed a great deal to easing the political tension in the region. Added to this, is the announcement of the resumption of peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis under American sponsorship.

Those parties who called for convening the MENA summit were hoping that such an economic venue will move in parallel or function as a complementary element with the peaceful solution," says Dr. Munir Hamaneh, a professor at the Department of Economics in the University of Jordan.

And that's why these meetings were supported by many sides such as the US, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and Israel as well. Other experts look at the venue from a different angle and deny the influence of the political aspect. "It is simply an economic conference," says Dr. Yusuf Mansur from the Ministry of Planning.

He continues that these conferences have been magnified in public eye by the media. "Naturally we don't expect to come up with millions of dollars if we need," Dr. Mansur adds. "They are just an exhibit of investment opportunities."

Dr. Hamaneh agrees and says that some consider these regional meetings as a chance to attract foreign investments, "but this is really an exaggeration."

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani was quoted by Al Hayat, the London-based Arabic newspaper, as saying that his country has the capacity to postpone the conference, but he added that any decision in this regard would be based on consultations between Qatari officials.

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New American Ambassador to Cairo

Will he be wearing two hats?

By Samir Raafat

Star Cairo correspondent

WHILE TURKEY and Israel talk of military cooperation, the government of Ankara did not hesitate to reject the appointment of Ehud Toledano as Israel's new ambassador naming him persona non grata for remarks he made 13 years ago regarding the alleged Turkish massacre of Armenians during World War I.

The Turkish government suggested Israel appoint an ambassador who will not arouse the Turkish people's opposition, and who will not become the victim of Turkish media.

Similarly, the recent appointment of Dan Kurtzer as Washington's ambassador to Cairo can only spur the Egyptian people's disapprobation. The fact that Kurtzer is Jewish doesn't really matter—there are several other secular foreign ambassadors with

Jewish ancestry accredited to Egypt. Like their Muslim or Christian counterparts they are more than welcome in a land where Jews were present for millenniums, at varying times occupying senior posts in the country: senators, ministers and MPs.

But when it comes to the handicapped representative of the President of the United States, who and what he personally represents is of paramount importance.

In Washington circles, Kurtzer is described as being more than just a warm Jew, meaning that the connection between Israel and Judaism is often blurred. There is this tangled emotional and religious allegiance with the Jewish state which is apt to surface in times of crisis.

The strong identification among America's extra-warm Jews with the Jewish state derives from a deep sensation of a common Jewish fate, not to

mention the Holocaust memories passed down from one generation to the other. As a result, many of Kurtzer's highly placed Jewish colleagues took part in the singular Overseas Volunteer Unit, which allows American Jews to serve in the Israeli army. Equally important, there are the strong ties with organized North American Jewry, the pro-Israel lobby AIPAC being one of them.

In neighboring Israel, we saw recently how Canada's former ambassador to Tel Aviv, Norman Spector, returned to Israel to take up the post of publisher of the right of center Jerusalem Post, often siding with Israel against Canada whenever dicey bilateral issues arose.

There is no doubt that veteran diplomat Dan Kurtzer is an authority on the Middle East. He not

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Cubans crowd Havana Square to honor Guevara's remains

By Serge F. Kovaleski

HAVANA—These are times of extreme hardship in Cuba. And for Carmen Almeida, the photo image that hangs in her bedroom of revolutionary

Ernesto "Che" Guevara lying dead, his lifeless eyes staring at the heavens, heartens her as she deals with the food rations, power outages and endless waits for buses that are the withering rituals of her existence.

"In Che, I have found a kind of god because he embodies such sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice, which was death. When I seek inspiration to go on, this is what I see in his

corpse," the 33-year-old teacher said. "In this period of our history, when we are facing a tough economic crisis, we need to follow his principles of struggle and hope. We need the strength of Che."

In one of the world's most closed political systems and few remaining socialist economies, Guevara remains a potent symbol of hope and unity—one that the government has tirelessly exploited in the past year.

The importance of Guevara's legacy to so many Cubans was played out Saturday as hundreds of thousands of people

such as Almeida descended on Revolution Square here in an emotional outpouring to pay homage to the guerrilla icon, who fought alongside Fidel Castro to topple dictator Fulgencio Batista and bring communism to this island nation four decades ago. Music praising the doctor-turned-rebel was piped through large speakers as admirers hoisted Cuban flags and banners emblazoned with portraits of Guevara and revolutionary slogans.

Under a towering steel mural depicting the Argentine-born revolutionary with his customary flowing hair, beard and beret, throngs of people endured long lines to briefly pass by the boxes holding remains of Guevara and six of his comrades in arms as they lay in state. The rebels were captured and

executed in a mountain hamlet in Bolivia in 1967 while trying to export revolution there and elsewhere in South America.

Inside the Memorial Jose Mari Peruché atop Revolution Square, an endless stream of people somberly filed past the remains contained in brown wooden boxes and draped with flags, while soldiers stood at attention. At one point, a weeping woman knelt and kissed the box bearing Guevara's name. All the remains will be moved to a recently completed mausoleum in Che Guevara Square in the central town of Santa Clara, the site of the decisive battle led by Guevara that would overthrow Batista's regime.

After Guevara's body disappeared

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World
Report

Banners taken down, spark protest

AMMAN (Star)—The elections banners hoisted on our streets and some buildings are already causing a headache for the government. All this week, the concerned authorities have been involved in a censorship exercise, tearing down banners across the country which are deemed to be offensive, not only to public tastes but are deemed to be "politically incorrect."

First to go are 190 banners that belong to Khalil Haddadin, a candidate who is running for the Amman's 3rd District Christian seat. The banners were taken down by the officials of the Amman Governorate.

Haddadin, who is running for re-election as a Jordanian Arab Socialist Baath Party candidate threatened to file a case against the Minister of Interior, at the High Court of Justice if the banners were not returned. His party sent a protest memo to Prime Minister Abdel Salam Al Majali.

Reasons behind such action is to do with the phrasing of some of these slogans which attack a country that has good ties with Jordan.

Some of those banners scream "no to normalization with Israel," or "our struggle against the Zionist entity is for existence and not for borders." Some leftist parties in Jordan are against the Arab-Israeli

peace treaty and still insist on calling the Jewish state as "the Zionist enemy."

Later, Haddadin's party issued a statement denouncing the removal of the banners and describing such practices as violation to the freedom of opinion.

But other banners continued to be removed. Some of the banners of Hamadeh Faraneh were also taken down. The journalist candidate who is standing for Amman's 1st District said 150 banners were taken down because officials considered them as a threat to national unity.

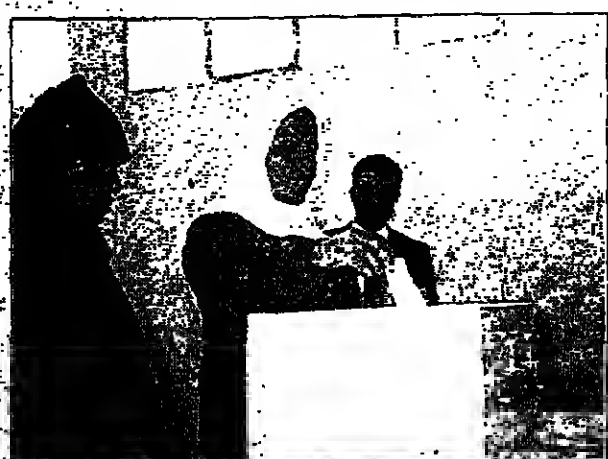
Also some of the banners of the independent Islamic candidate for the 1st District, Dr Theib Abdallah, were taken down. Although, this was carried out by the supporters of another candidate.

The same goes for some of the banners of Saleh Al Zayoud, who is standing for the 4th District.

But there were other reports of banners taken down in the country. In the Al Ramatha and Bani Kan'anah District, 120 banners of Daif Allah Ali Al Zoubi were taken down for attacking what they termed as "the Zionist Enemy."

The same goes for the banners of one candidate in the Irbid District. His banners criticized the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and normalization.

Women in full force



Following is the list of women candidates contesting the 4 November general elections:

- Aysheh Al Khawaja (1st District - Amman): Muslim, member of the center-right National Constitutional Party.
- Emily Nafaa (3rd District - Amman): Christian, Member of the Jordanian Communist Party.
- Toujan Faisal (3rd District - Amman): Circassian, Independent opposition.
- Norma Shatara (3rd District - Amman): Christian, Independent.
- Fatmeh Hassaneh (4th District - Amman): Muslim, Independent.
- Fardous Al Masi (5th District - Amman): Muslim, Independent.

- District Amman: Muslim, Journalist, Independent.
- Hiam Kalimat (5th District - Amman): Circassian, Independent.
- Laila Faisal (5th District - Amman): Circassian, Independent.
- Shiam Bayakdah (Karak): Muslim, Independent.
- Hafeeth Ma'udah (Karak): Muslim, Independent.
- Da'd Al Tamimi (Aqaba): Muslim, Independent.
- Samiha Al Tal (Irbid): Muslim, Independent.
- Fatimah Obeidat (Irbid): Muslim, Independent.
- Ajayeb Hedeires (Balqa): Muslim, Independent.
- Wisal Ka'doneh (Central Bedouin): Muslim, Independent.
- Nawal Al Momani (Ajloun): Muslim, Independent.
- Sabah Al Anzi (Zerqa): Muslim, Independent.

Political parties' list is marginal

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old Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) is running with only one candidate. Mrs Emily Nafaa, an old guard communist in the Amman's 3rd district. The JCP enjoys historical relations with its counterpart in Israel, and is the first Arab party to adopt a two-state solution for Palestine.

In addition, the Arab Land Party, a one-year-old opposition party, is contesting the elections through its secretary general, Mohammad Al Oran in the Tafila District.

The left of center Jordanian Unionist Democratic Party (JUDP) is fielding four candidates. The party was ousted from the opposition alliance in 1996, when it approved the participation of Mustafa Shneikat in the cabinet of Abdel Karim Al Kabariti. The JUDP which is dominated by reforming communists and pan-Arabists adopt a moderate line regarding the Middle East peace process and a conservative stand towards the three-year-old Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

The National Constitutional Party (NCP), center-right, is running with a declared list of 12 candidates and "unannounced" list estimated to

contain 21 candidates who will run individually. The NCP, which was formed three months ago after a merger of nine small moderate parties, is led by a number of former ministers, retired army personnel and heads of tribes. The NCP is said to be preparing itself to be the future ruling party in the country.

The Islamists and other opposition parties accused the government of preparing the way for the NCP to become the government's party since the cabinet of Premier Abdel Al Salam Al Majali includes eight NCP members. The NCP is headed by Abdel Hadi Al Majali, the premier's brother.

The Islamist centrist trend is represented by the Arab Islamic Democratic Party (Dua'a) which is fielding one candidate.

However, four ranking members of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), which is boycotting the elections, decided to risk their membership in the Islamic movement

and run for the Lower House seats.

Dr Abdallah Al Akaileh, who led the moderate trend in the movement for the past five years and one of the minority bloc that opposes IAF's boycott, is again running in Tafila. Also breaking ranks with the IAF are Mohammad Al Azydeh, Raib Qaraleh and Ali Al Daradsheh. According to the spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood, Jamil Abu Baker, the four Islamists are automatically dismissed from the movement based on the 30-member Shura Council decision to dismiss any member who participates or votes in the parliamentary elections.

Another seven independent Islamic figures are also running: Theib Abdallah and Ahmad Al Kassabeh (ex-members of the IAF), in addition to Ali Al Faqir, Fuad Khalafat, Abdel Majeed Al Aqasb, Ahmad Al Awaishah and Mohammad Alawneh. ■

Jordan's silent election campaign

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egy, Jordan's elections are of the silent and lonely sort. Public rallies are not allowed and thus street banners and newspaper ads are the only orthodox means that candidates have to reach the electorate. That and the mass media circles.

So the campaign trail is a battle for the best position for a banner or a poster. The banner fever has its hazards too, especially for unsuspecting motorists, who may get distracted unintentionally while driving and reading. Catchy slogans attract motorists' attention and that could lead to nasty accidents.

It would be interesting to check with the traffic department's statistics and see if the number of accidents inside the towns and cities has risen during the election period.

But seriously, however, the interest is likely to wane as we go into the throws of the election campaign.

Banners say a lot of things and nothing at the same time. They are essentially catchy slogans, and although they have nothing to do with specific policy, agenda or platform, they manage to tell you something about the candidates' frame of mind, believe it or not.

One honorable former member, who is now standing for re-election for the umpteenth time, is one of those who has his agenda splashed on the streets, starting from arresting unemployment, to educating youth, women and building a national economy.

The voters don't really need to go to his electoral center, because what he stands for is right out there in front of you! Asking him how he would achieve all this would really be a waste of your time and his!

Something that the sloganizer may have missed is the fact that we do have a national economy, it might be in the doldrums just at the moment, but it is alive, well and kicking.

As to women, while his intentions are good and meaningful in calling for equality and justice between the sexes, one woman prospective voter was actually very angry.

She saw such a slogan as downright patronizing to women, a quite a few of whom are running along side him as prospective members of parliament.

But the poor guy is actually saying something. Other banners go from the timid, to the ludicrous, the meaningless and ultimately to the laughable, even though electioneer-

Cubans honor Guevara's remains

Continued from page 1

following his death at the age of 39, some of his bones were discovered by a forensic team in a secret Bolivian grave and returned to Cuba in July, setting the stage for an elaborate state commemoration of the "20th Anniversary of the Death in Combat of the Heroic Guerrilla and His Comrades" that was inaugurated Saturday and will culminate next Friday when the remains are interred.

The outpouring of reverence for Guevara comes at a time when Cuba is facing pressing questions about the future of its socialist state model. A severe economic crisis has developed as a result of the fall of communism in the Soviet bloc and of punitive measures imposed on this Caribbean country by the United States through an embargo and the Helms-Burton Act.

President Castro has used Guevara's stature as a national symbol to his advantage. He opened the Fifth Congress of the Communist Party last Wednesday on the anniversary of the rebel's capture and closed the gathering on the eve of the opening of the commemoration. Moreover, the government recently initiated a "Be Like Che" campaign to counter the lack of interest in communism among some Cuban teenagers, and also displayed a large picture of Guevara during the 14th World Festival and Conference of Youth and Students held last August.

Since an extended tribute to Guevara began a year ago, the government has saturated the public with news and promotions about him. The official Communist Party newspaper, Granma, has run as many as six stories about him in one edition of its eight-page daily. On the opening day of the party congress stories glorifying

Guevara appeared to overshadow the political meeting.

Throughout the city, Che memorabilia, including T-shirts, beads, statuettes and ash trays have been on sale, while worldwide, books and movies about the revolutionary's life have become a mini-industry. In a news conference held this week, Guevara's daughter, Alicia Guevara March, said, "There are many opportunists who are exploiting an image, and that of course is bothersome. But concerning the young men and women who are wearing shirts with his image, we think it means something to them that he can stay with them—and that is good."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

The Bavarians are in Amman

PEDESTRIANS and visitors to the Greater Amman Municipality enjoyed the music of the Bavarian Group (Hans Loehner Band) that came from Hersbruck, the heart of Bavaria in Germany.

The group is in Amman to perform at the October festivities held at the Inter-Continental Jordan. The Octoberfest is a festival held every year in Munich, the capital of Bavaria in Germany.

On behalf of the mayor of Hersbruck Mr Wolfgang Platmeier, Mr Loehner, the band leader presented Dr Mamdouh Al Abadi, the mayor of Amman with the shield of the city of Hersbruck.

Dr Abadi thanked the leader of the band and gave him a message to be delivered to the mayor of Hersbruck in which he extended greetings from the city of Amman to Hersbruck.



Dr Abadi mentioned the friendly old relations between Jordan and Germany and the continued cooperation between

the two countries. At the end of the ceremony he wished the group a pleasant stay in Amman.

The traditional dance group of the Amman Municipality presented some dabkeh dances in welcoming the German group to Jordan.

The group will bring the traditional Bavarian Octoberfest to Amman through performing at two special evenings held at the Inter-Continental Hotel on 15 and 16 October 1997. This ■

Will he be wearing two hats?

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only holds a Ph.D on the subject but was directly involved with the Peace Process during the past nine years. Moreover, he will have privileged access to the principals back home, many of them coreligionists, which in a sense, means cutting out the Foggy Bottom Arabists—US State Department officers who 21 years ago had reportedly told Kurtzer "You have all the qualifications to

serve in the Middle East division, but don't even think of suggesting it."

But Kurtzer is also a pious Jew who sticks to kosher meals and openly observes the Sabbath and all commandments of Judaism. While there is nothing wrong with that, one cannot deny that religious and sectarian sentiments are high everywhere, from Belfast to Sri Lanka.

Even in Israel Orthodox Jews resent the presence of

their reform counterparts and refuse them access to certain shrines and locales. One doesn't need much imagination to fathom the effects of appointing a Catholic mayor (even if he is a secular Catholic) in a Protestant district of Belfast" exclaimed a former Egyptian ambassador peeved at what he termed as America's "insensitive" decision.

And while ambassadors are supposed to soften edges, bridge differences, soothe egos

and press flesh they must also be perceived as impartial to sectarian frays and internal politics.

The risk here is that Kurtzer, even if not the case, will inevitably be seen—literally and otherwise—as prejudiced to certain anti-Arab interests.

Interests that coincide with those of Israel, a country which during the last few decades launched several military invasions against Egypt, and that continues to occupy and colonize Arab and Muslim territory.

"Whatever he does and how ever politically correct he behaves, for as long as the Arab-Israeli conflict remains unresolved, the new American ambassador will be perceived as wearing two hats, one of them being a skullcap or yarmulke," commented a professor of Political Science at the American University in Cairo.

Rightly or wrongly, this gross discernment will usher in untenable situations with which Egypt can do without at this point in time. One cannot disregard the fact that a majority of the Egyptian population will see Kurtzer's appointment as an intolerable and cynical American provocation. A provocation from an America which claims to be Egypt's ally.

Except for Al Wafd, the usually feisty opposition papers here have been uncharacteristically moot about Kurtzer's recent appointment. So far, the semi-official press has chosen to disregard the matter altogether.

And since the sitting government is not expected to follow Turkey's example "when rejected Israel's appointment of Toledano because of a statement made 13 years ago, hardly expects President Clinton's administration to reassess its decision and do what is right by Egypt. Look around for a representative of Uncle Sam who will be seen to be wearing only one hat. ■

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An unconventional
report on Jordanian
news and views edited
by Marwan Al Asmar



The elections
race begins!

Weapons confiscated

More than 450 pieces of weapons including revolvers, rifles, and machine guns were confiscated by the General Intelligence Dept. (GID) recently. As part of its intensified activity, the Anti-Corruption Directorate of the GID was able to follow-up and stop arm smuggling operations into the country. It is said that it is no longer light arms such as pistols that are smuggled into the country but it is now much heavier weapons such as machine guns, and the source of this is extremist political organizations outside Jordan. After much investigation, the GID inferred that these latest weapons were going to organizations whose objective was to undermine the security of the country.

Unqualified

About 60 percent of those who work in 'children institutions' that come under the authority of the Ministry of Social Development are under qualified. According to a source, only four of these employees have a university degree, while the rest don't even have a secondary school (Tawjihi) certificate. The source added that this has a negative effect on the children, who quite frequently come from broken homes and are in need of specialized care. While some training is carried out like the programs in the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, these are not enough to create a "qualified cadre", the source added.

Brotherhood adamant

The spokesman of the Islamic Brotherhood, Mr. Jamil Abu Bakr, has said that that any Islamist running for the next parliamentary elections on November 4 will be automatically expelled from the movement. So far, former Islamist deputy, Mohammad Al Hajj has said that he wouldn't be running for elections after all, and therefore he keeps his place in the movement. But Islamists whether members, former members of the Islamic Action Front or independents are running in the elections. These include Dr. Fayez Rahieh, Mr. Mohammad Al Azaydi for Madaba and former member of the IAF, Dr. Thibeb-Abdallah. They all say that participation in the elections is not only important, for the nation but they gave a religious interpretation to fighting the elections. They said that from the Islamic point of view, it would be wrong not to participate. And on that score, there are four former ministers who are standing for elections: Abdel Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Abdel Razzak Tbeisbat, Ali Al Faqir and Mohammad Alawneh. The last three have always run on independent Islamist tickets. The last two have lost their deposits in the last election and will be trying to make a comeback at the present one.

Al Hajj

Al Hajj

Free Mr Snejd

The New York-based Human Rights Watch organization has sent a letter to Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali appealing for the release of Ali Snejd, a 25-year-old Jordanian writer. Mr. Snejd has been held in custody since 25 September after writing a letter and delivering it in front of His Majesty King Hussein in Madaba criticizing a high level public employee. Since newspapers refused to publish his letter, he made photocopies of it and distributed it by hand, and it was then that he was arrested. Human Rights Watch say that Mr. Snejd has a democratic right to express himself freely. He wrote a play on the trial of Leith Shbeilat, now president of the Jordan Engineers' Association, in which he criticized the government. Mr. Snejd was on his way to his home village Theihan when he was arrested.

GAM's budget of JD 66 million

The Greater Amman Municipality's budget for 1998 has been fixed at JD 66 million. This has been approved by the council of the municipality that was headed by the Mayor of Amman Dr. Mamdooh Al Abbadi.

Large number of welfare groups

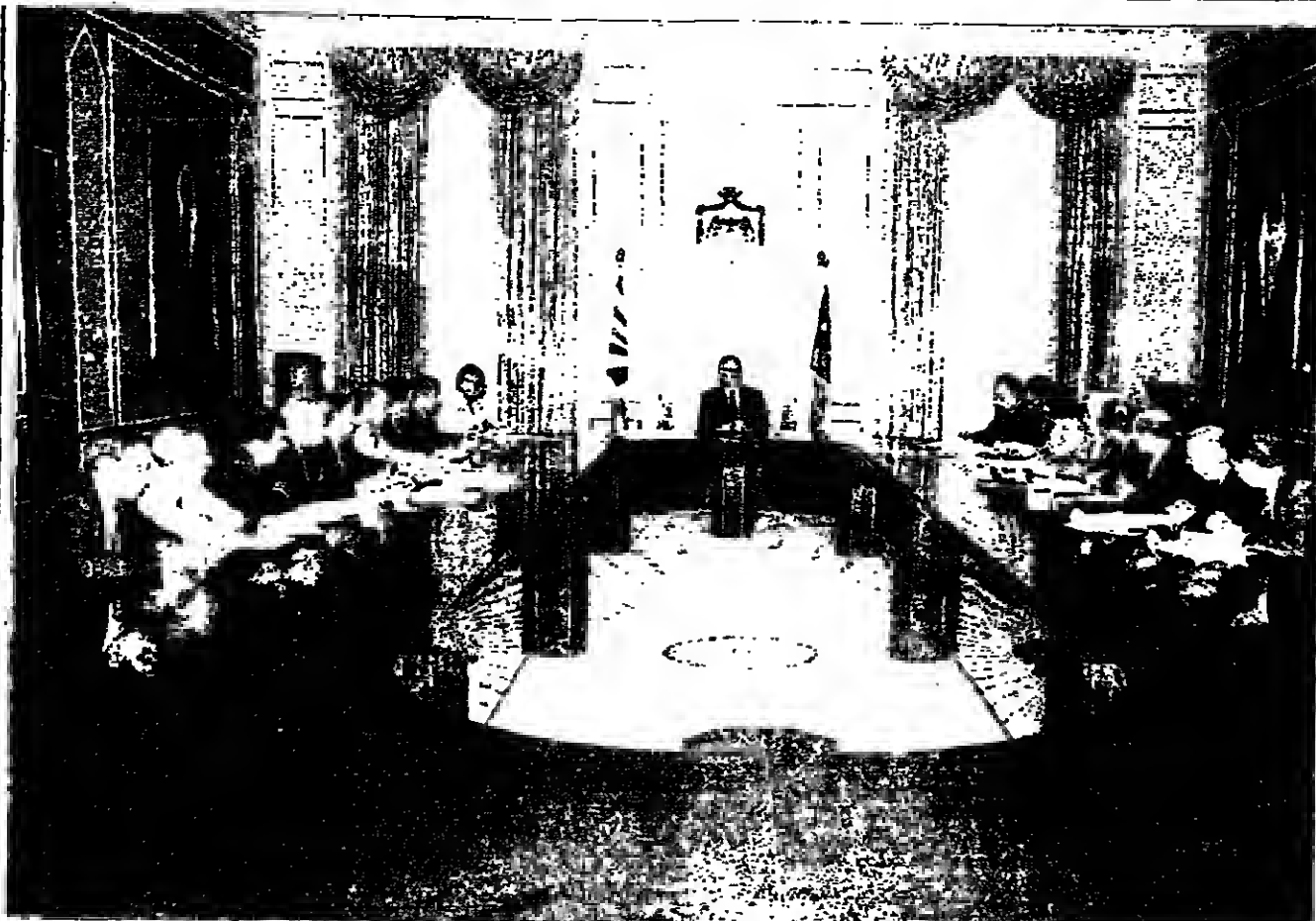
Minister of Social Affairs Khair Al Din Mamsar said that there are 720 societies and 2200 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Kingdom. These, including clubs and associations, mean that for every 200 people in the country there is one organization.

Shutdown

Fifteen food establishments in Al Ruseifa have been closed down for not adhering to health and safety regulations. These included restaurants, bakeries, butcheries and factories. The Public Safety Committee (PSC) of the Ruseifa Council which has carried out the closures, said it had also issued warnings to 10 other establishments if they violated health and safety procedures. Officials of the PSC say that these will be closed down, if the committee finds out that they have not adjusted during their next round of inspection.

Unfit for public consumption

Fifty tons of foodstuffs have been destroyed in the Zeraqa Free Zones. The Director of the Free Zones Corp., Zeraqa Free Zones, said that the corporation had to carry out this action because the shipment was unfit for public consumption. In cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality, the corporation carefully took the expired foodstuffs to the nearest dumping ground and destroyed them.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, heads a meeting of the Ministerial Development Committee of the Royal Court, Sunday. The meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Majali, and the members of the committee, stressed the need to bridge the gap between the recommendations of the 5th Science Week, which was held lately, and government policy in all fields. Prince Hassan reiterated the importance of productivity, quality and transparency in the course of development. Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs, Dr Jowad Al Anani heads the committee.

Palestine Heritage Week

In memory of bygone days

By Ibtisam Awadat
Special to The Star

TRADITION, HERITAGE and identity are once again being displayed in full attire. The Palestine Heritage Week, currently going on at the Professional Association Complex, is proving a great success. Thousands upon thousands are visiting the event which started 6 October but carries on till 17 October.

The week, which is held under the slogan of "The Land ... first," is organized by three professional associations—the Engineers, Pharmacists and Agriculturalists.

The venue is complex in scope since it seeks to provide a comprehensive picture of Palestinian traditions and culture by having different folklore groups, a photographic exhibition, and a bazaar that have Palestinian costumes, posters, handicrafts and paintings as well as folkloric brick-work.

But this is only the cultural side. The Week was rich on the intellectual side as well. Seminars and lectures on Palestinian history and their attempts to confront the Israeli occupation were a major part. Many personalities of national repute spoke on the past and coming challenges.

These included former deputies Ibrahim Zeid Al Keilani and Hamman Sa'ed; Lawyers Association's President Hussein Mjall; Jerusalem expatriate Ra'ef Najem, political activist

Naji Alloush and
columnists Tareq
Masarweh and
George Haddad.

The event very much had a Palestinian/Arabist feel to it of a bygone age. This was particularly evident during the "Al Anashoda (Chanting) Festival" that was held. Local groups such as the Al Yarmouk, Al Bayader, Al Bara'a and Al Rawabi enlightened the audience where they sang for the country, the homeland and for the love of human beings.

"The purpose of this week, which is held annually, is to keep the Palestinian people in touch with their traditions and heritage and keep it alive in our hearts and minds," Mr. Ali Sabri the President of the Agricultural Engineers Association tells *The Star*. "Last year 25,000 visited the different activities but this year we expect the figure to go up to 30,000."

However, one of the most eye-catching events put on by the organizers, is the photographic exhibition. There is a special room which gives a pictorial as well as a minute docu-



Deputy Prime Minister for Social Affairs, Abdullah Nsour, who opened the Palestine Heritage Week, is shown around some of the exhibits.

mentary view of Palestinian cities and villages. Many visitors were almost running over each other to see what happened to the villages they came from and what the Israelis have done to them.

In another room, the pictures of Israeli atrocities were graphically displayed through the expert lens. A section of the room was also devoted what is termed as Palestinian rage, having photos of Palestinian martyrs and their families, and in this respect, also, you can see a photo for Yehya Ayash and his son. Also there is one for the spiritual Hamas leader Ahmad Yassin.

Walking through these halls you feel a sense of moral outrage and a huge personal loss at the indignity of it all.

A special room is designated for the Cana massacre with a statement by a UNIFIL officer with a foretelling comment: "The posts will be rebuilt quickly, what we see here, however, will be kept in our memories for ever—a quote from the French daily *Le Monde*.

You leave the exhibition with utter despair.

Press of the Week

Edited by Rashed Al Abed

Rumors, mockery and elections

Since the kick-off of the election campaign last week, local daily columnists have also started to open their big guns.

Despite the fact that more than 500 candidates have registered for the 4 November race and more than half a million voters, of the 1.8 million who registered, received their electoral ID cards and in spite of the campaign fever evident in the thousands of banners hanging in the streets of towns and cities, "we still hear speculations about the possibility of extending the term of the present parliament or postponing the elections, and we hear rumors about a possible cabinet reshuffle or a complete government shake-up." Oraib Al Rantawi writes in *Ad Dustour* daily. He adds that "the spread of 'rumors' in our life has its own mechanism and reasons which must be taken into account." The writer believes that the rumor mechanism "disturges us from our neighboring countries."

He argues that these rumors have a snowball effect, usually beginning in small saloons. He adds that these rumors are made by those who have an interest in, say, the postponement of the elections.

Rantawi says that if, for example, somebody gets angry with a minister, then a [government] reshuffle will be the talk of the country and the nation, but if the "unger" is directed against the premier or his deputy, "then a comprehensive change of the government becomes a must."

Rantawi adds that the mechanisms of spreading rumors is working efficiently. They are a sort of "hot air balloons" which seek to say what "we cannot speak about in public." They test public mood.

He ends by saying that the "rumor kitchens are just like restaurants and sweat factories, looking for an occasion to make business, and in this case the elections are the season for rumor spinners."

In his column in *Al Ra'i* daily, titled "The Comedy of Elections" Fakhri Kaware, focuses on candidates' banners that "make no sense." Kaware writes, for example, one banner says "The teacher looks after the educational process." Kaware adds that such statements are taken for granted and say nothing new especially about the candidate. He adds that such patronizing slogans are in effect harmless, benefitting neither the candidate or his constituency.

Slogans which say that "work is honor," "voting is a stance," "I will stand by you," "the deputy is the servant of all," or "a house for every citizen and a university seat for every student," do nothing for the intellectual capacity of the person behind such slogans.

Some candidates indulge in elementary chatter which Kaware describes as not "worth the ink splashed on the banners." He asks what does standing against ethnicity, tribalism, apartheid and regionalism really mean.

The writer concludes by summarizing the slogans on our streets as follows: some candidates do not like to be on record, some behave like teachers who talk to people as if they are sitting in a classroom, some candidates address voters by using "big talk, even bigger than their size," because "their promises do not fit any legislator in the world." However, the fourth kind of candidates, which Mr. Kaware believes are the minority are those who "know what they want and clearly declare their stances and promises and stick with their positions."

The writer inferred it would be a sad Lower House if the current slogans are translated into deeds at the next session, adding that the Lower House would serve as "fertile material for the progress of sarcastic literature and provide cartoonists with ample material."

New ALC opens

Amman (Star)—United States Ambassador to Jordan Wesley W. Egan and Dr. Mahmoud Massad, Director General of Education, representing Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Munther Al Masri, inaugurated the new premises of the American Language Center (ALC) in the Jandawee area, Amman. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by ALC staff and students, a large number of ALC alumni, and representatives of several government and private sector organizations that sponsor ALC students. These sponsors include the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, Army Headquarters, the Customs Dept., the Central Bank of Jordan, and the Social Security Corporation.

More than 8000 Jordanians have studied at the ALC since it was established in 1989 to meet a pressing need in the community for professional quality English language instruction. About 50 percent of ALC students are sponsored by their organizations in recognition of the value of English language in opening doors to international development and in enhancing commercial ties with nations worldwide.

Doha summit set to glitter

Continued from page 1

and the Americans.

Qatari officials say the third MENA venue was downgraded to a conference at a ministerial level, but expect its status to go back to that of a "summit" in the light of positive political developments if there are any.

Presently, invitations were sent to foreign ministers. Qatar expects more than 2500 participants in the venue including 800 participants of states representatives, 800 businessmen, 300 representatives of regional and international organizations and 500 journalists. About 500 Qatari personalities are expected to take part. Invitations were sent to more than 80 countries and some Latin American states expressed their willingness to attend for the first time.

Dr. Hamaneh argues that economic normalization, which preceded a comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict with Israel, has benefited Israel by allowing it to rebuild relations with countries that were observing the Arab boycott of Israel.

Analysts say that Israel, realizing the weight of Arab public opinion and calls to impose pressure on the host country to postpone the summit, made some "manoeuvres" to calm down the tension.

The release of Sheikh Yassin, Israel's decision to allow Palestinian workers to re-enter Israel for work, after imposing a blockade on the Palestinian territories for the past six months and the release of due funds belonging to the Palestine National Authority are among such manoeuvres.

Analysts point out that Israel is the main, if not the only beneficiary from the Doha summit, which she considers as a "gateway" to the region's markets.

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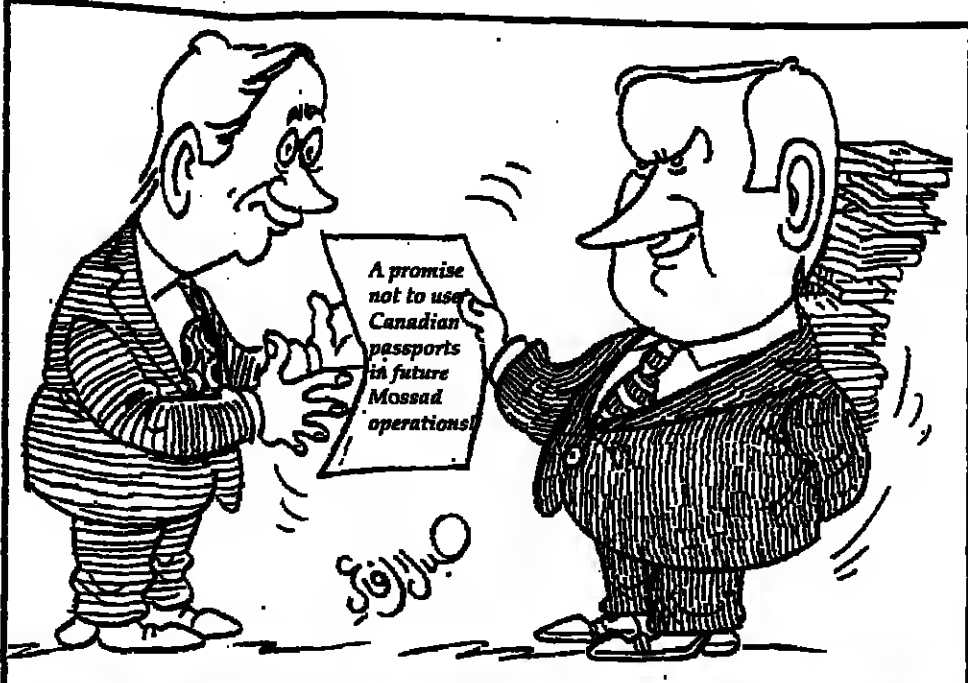
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Our Say...

Cross-examining our candidates

CAMPAIGNING FOR the 4 November elections has begun in earnest and will continue for another two weeks. Banners hang in almost every street and every roundabout in every city, town and village. They are the most evident and probably effective tools of any candidate in addition to newspaper advertising.

But campaigning, Jordanian style, has been described as one-sided and silent. Candidates reach for voters' minds and hearts through one-line slogans, that are more often than not too broad, too general and too repetitive. After two general elections and three campaigns, Jordanians are used by now to the banner treatment. They know what to believe and what to disbelieve; they can sense if what the candidate is promising is indeed realistic and pragmatic or not. They have trusted candidates before and now they may be able to make a better value judgment. Or can they?

This election, for the 13th parliament in Jordan's history, differs from the last two elections. If the first was held amidst the new found democratic euphoria, the second had the added value of the participation, for the first time in decades, of legalized political parties. This time most of the political parties, in addition to prominent independent figures, are staying away to protest government policies. The field has been left open for weaker independent candidates and for strong tribal representatives to join the fray and fight their way into the Lower House.

There is no doubt that the euphoria of the early 1990s has subsided. If slogans are any indication, they reflect a more moderate, less aggressive and realistic aspirations and promises on the part of the candidates. That's not so bad after all. But since campaigning is one-sided and of the silent nature, we fear that public interest, and therefore participation and involvement, in the electoral process may be on the decline.

We think it might be a good idea to allow candidates to hold public rallies and speak of their programs and voice their ideas. We believe voters have the right to know more of the candidates' capabilities and thinking and go beyond the one-line slogans, or carefully worded manifestos, that cannot be contested by voters.

We believe voters should be allowed to cross-examine candidates so that real issues could be discussed in public and candidates can take a public stand on these issues.

Allowing candidates to make televised campaign commercials is a step in the right direction. But it is not enough. Jordanians are entitled to test their candidates before election day. They are entitled to hold their future representatives to their words and pledges. Banner campaigns do not offer citizens the opportunity to judge who is the best of the best, especially in big cities and towns where most candidates venture into public service for the first time.

We are talking about a parliament that will lead Jordan into the 21st century. If realism and moderation are marking the current election campaign, then the government should allow a two-way debate to take place in a democratic fashion.

Iran claims it warned US military away from Gulf exercises

CAIRO—Even as a US commander said Tuesday that violations of southern Iraq's "no-fly" zone have ended since the aircraft carrier Nimitz reached the Gulf this week, uneasy neighbor Iran warned American forces not to get too close to its navy. An Iranian official said that Tehran had cautioned the US destroyer Kinkaid and a reconnaissance plane to turn back to avoid interfering with planned exercises designed to showcase the Islamic Republic's growing navy, including two new Russian-built submarines.

US officials, however, could not confirm that any such incident took place Tuesday and said the Kinkaid had been docked in Bahrain since Monday afternoon. The tensions highlighted the ongoing delicate power balance in the Gulf. The arrival of the Nimitz coincided with Iran's most extensive naval exercises in years—10 days of war games covering a 15,000-square-mile area and involving more than 100 vessels.

Although US and Iranian naval forces were in close proximity, both countries emphasized a mutual desire to avert any incidents. The Nimitz commander, US Rear Adm. John Nathman, told

CNN Tuesday that interactions between the US and Iranian militaries were "professional and courteous." A few days earlier, Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani had said, "We don't see any reason for friction." Nathman suggested that the arrival of the Nimitz has already had its intended effect over southern Iraq. "We've seen the activity in the 'no-fly' zone actually calm down in the last couple of days, which is, I think, significant because of our presence here," he said.

The Nimitz, with its 75 aircraft and an accompaniment of six warships, reached the Gulf on Sunday, about two weeks ahead of schedule. President Clinton had ordered an accelerated deployment in response to violations of the "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq by both Iraqi and Iranian fighters. The incidents occurred 29 September when Iranian jets attacked bases in southern Iraq that are used by Iranian dissidents to launch attacks against Iran. Iraqi fighter jets then scrambled in response.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

When is terror not terror?

By Michael A. Hoffman II

THERE'S AN old joke about the president of the United States. Waiting outside his office to greet him is the pope of Rome and the chief rabbi of the Israelis. "Which one should I send in first?" an aide asks. "Send the pope in first," the president replies. "I'll only have to kiss his ring."

Even when Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu is caught red-handed ordering the murder of Arab leader Khaled Misha'el in Jordan—the US media will not describe it as a terrorist act, but rather part of the "fight against terrorism."

This is how Netanyahu's spin-doctor, "image advisor" Arthur Finkelstein wants the American news agencies to report the attempted assassination and US media executives have complied. It's not just presidents who must kiss Jewish posteriors. The Fourth Estate's fearless feature writers must pucker up too.

A government which rules by assassination is generally regarded as barbaric. But even when Jewish secret agents squirt poison in the ear of an Arab in Amman the way their forebears in Murder, Inc. rammed ice-picks into wise guys in Brooklyn, somehow it still doesn't qualify as terrorism. Said James Rubin of the US State Department, "We are not in the habit of second-guessing Israel when it comes to her security."

Squirting poison (Zyklon B perhaps?) in the ear of an Arab leader is not going to enhance Jewish security. In the eyes of everyone not dwelling in Zion-

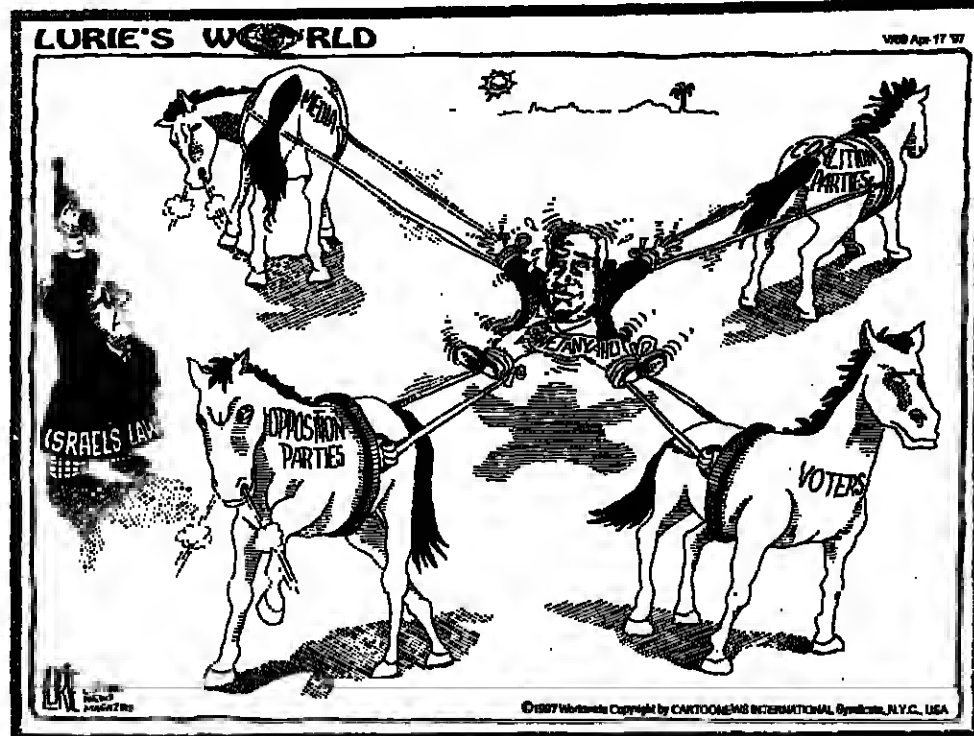
ist Wonderland, government assassination is gangsterism, not statesmanship. While the American media seek to transmute the naked truth about the Mossad's attempted murder into something palatable, the rest of the world, including 800 million Muslims, will take it for what it is—proof that the Israelis are the same bunch of bomb-throwing cutthroats who founded the country in 1948. That the tactics of the Irgun and the Stern gang continue unabated under the present Israeli administration is patent. When is terror not terror then? Why, when the Jews do it, of course. The Israelis are not only masters of the double-cross, but the double-standard. Perhaps we should call their murders, (if the phrase has not already been coined by some ambitious pundit with an eye on a Pulitzer), "deterrent retribution."

It's too bad His Majesty King Hussein released the Mossad agents responsible for the assassination attempt. What a trial their prosecution would have made. The victim's account, the strange weapon, their high-level orders—the whole testimony might even have awakened some Americans.

But instead the American people, the ones with the chapped lips, must continue to apply them to Bibi's backside and chant as they do so, "Terror is not terror when your Lordship commits it."

There was a time, not so long ago, when Americans objected to the deference the pope required.

Michael A. Hoffman II is a former reporter for the Associated Press. His column is distributed electronically by The Campaign For Radical Truth in History <http://www.hoffman-info.com>



A flap over Iran

...there can be no compromising with an Iranian foreign policy that undercuts the post-Cold War code of respect for the legitimate and fair interests of others...Iran's foreign policy is likely to be among the last things that a reforming Tehran leadership would touch

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON—The great streams of international commerce flowing from growth and globalization keep exposing the United States to a political trap. The latest is the dispute over France's determination to support a \$2 billion private natural gas investment in Iran—a deal the United States had denied to an American company, Conoco, out of concern for the Ayatollahs' rule-breaking foreign policy. Washington takes the high ground, Paris rakes in the chips, Tehran grins.

Not that the French and their Russian and Malaysian partners in this deal, and the makers of other deals in other mercantile states, are entirely indifferent to the obligations of international citizenship. But they are only selectively attentive. United Nations sanctions hold on Iraq. Thus Iran, which only Washington has sanctioned, becomes in dollar potential the largest single economic wedge between the United States and its allies.

A wedge between the United States and France is not about to lead to the whole un-

raveling of an ancient and durable friendship. But it colors the climate in which other issues are treated. Most important, it undercuts American efforts to address Iran's serious and continuing misconduct—its support of terrorism and subversion and its harassment of Arab-Israeli peace prospects.

France, with its air of nationalistic taunting of the United States, is an easy and tempting target for American rebuke. What is especially troubling these days, however, is a drift of American opinion suggesting that the United States should accommodate the revolutionary regime in Tehran—early and with few conditions.

The drift comes from country specialists who are experts on Iran and from strategic thinkers who are eyeing the new "great game" shaping up over energy resources and strategic presence in post-Cold War Central Asia. To these folks a promising new day was foreshadowed by last May's election victory of former minister of culture Mohammed Khatami, who—

as rating to Robin Wright Shaul Bakhash in Foreign

Policy magazine—campaigns on a platform stressing pluralism and the rule of law.

Those who saw the Khatami sweep as opening a window of opportunity were further encouraged when the Clinton administration said it would not oppose a new natural gas pipeline crossing Iran from Turkmenistan to Turkey.

In fact, what is missing from the more sanguine American projections is a coming to terms with the Ayatollahs, who outrank Khatami and who appear to command the ramparts of Iranian foreign policy. It is true that many Americans retain a bitter memory of Iran's capture of the US Embassy in Tehran in 1979. But the bombings in Europe and elsewhere abroad, subversion in the Arabian Gulf and Sudan, the attempts to sabotage Palestinian-Arab talks, death threats against Salman Rushdie: These concrete deeds continue. Last year's Khobar bombings in Saudi Arabia, which took 19 American lives, also apparently must go on the Iranian account.

Iran, it is pointed out, has its own perhaps even more

deeply felt historical grievance against the United States—the American CIA intervention of the 1950s that deposed a popularly elected leader, saved the then-young shah and subsequently brought America the "great Satan" tag. To cite this now-unimaginable Cold War episode, however, is not to excuse the Iranian regime's misconduct in more recent years. We are all necessarily living now by the code of 1997, not 1954.

At some point the United States may be led to review its own historical record in dealing with Iran. That will take a complex political transaction whose elements are not yet in place. In the meantime, there can be no compromising with an Iranian foreign policy that undercuts the post-Cold War code of respect for the legitimate and fair interests of others. On the evidence, Iran's foreign policy is likely to be among the last things that a reforming Tehran leadership would touch.

Argument goes on over whether foreign-policy reform in Iran will get a boost from international interaction, domestic reform, social change, revolution,

any fatigue, leadership turnover or whatever. The best answer is perhaps all of the above but variously and slowly. The offering or denying of the manifest benefits of participation in the international economy promises too much potential leverage not to be intelligently used. That should be the central consideration in the bargaining with France and others over common terms of trade with revolutionary regimes. France should be strengthening, not weakening, a standard of law-respecting international conduct that serves all nations well.

Jordan must maintain its capability of taking the initiative at all time, and must continue to assess the situation according to variables on the ground, rather than words of promises. For Mr. Netanyahu, Oslo is not an agreement made in heaven, to be implemented in hell, while for Mr. Arafat, Oslo is a new beginning for the history of the Palestinian people on their own land. But, where is Mr. Netanyahu going with the Oslo agreement? And does Mr. Arafat expect anything from it?

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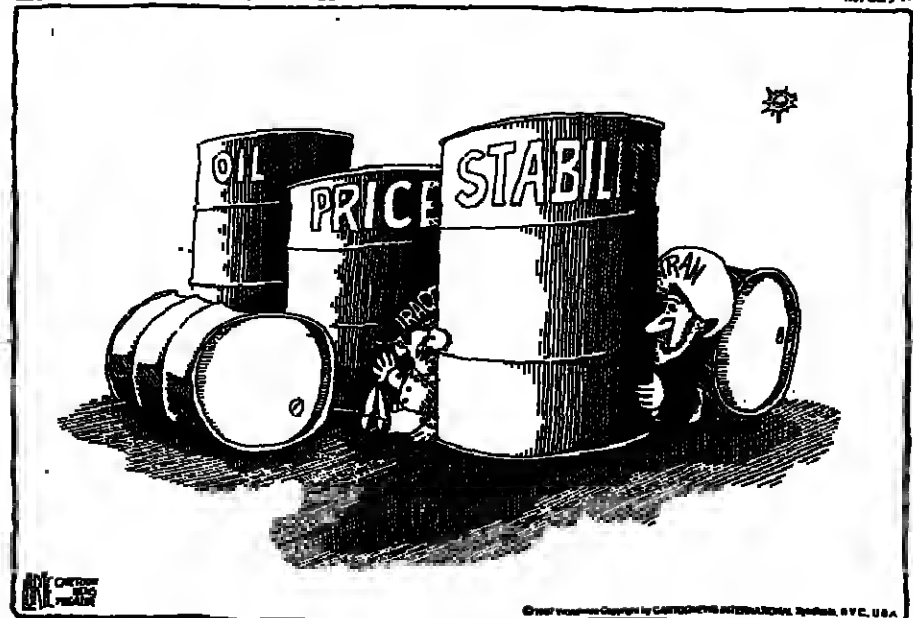
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Lurie's NewsCartoon



(News Note: Once Iran and Iraq started to show signs of peace-making, the international oil markets became nervous and oil prices jumped by one dollar per barrel.)

كنا مع إسرائيل

Business scene

■ The Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (JIFB) is to increase its capital from JD 10 million to JD 20 million. This is to meet the Central Bank of Jordan's instructions. The increase is to be made by offering five million shares (at one each) and a capitalization of JD 5 million from the Bank's general reserves and earnings. Mid-annual earnings of the Bank stood at JD 1.48 million and the shareholders' rights reached JD 18.7 million.

■ Jordan lately received offers from international companies to carry out the oil refinery project which is to be constructed in Aqaba. Total costs of the enterprise are estimated at \$2 billion. According to officials in the Ministry of Energy, these offers are being thoroughly studied and the decision to approve them has not been taken yet. The expected operational capacity of the refinery is about 250,000 barrels per day. All production will be exported.

■ The government is going ahead in its privatization strategy to sell its stakes in some industrial companies. Many local, Arab and foreign businessmen and investors show willingness to benefit from these operations, that are estimated at JD 6 million. The government plans to sell about 1,444 million of its equity in four companies including the Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories, Jordan Tanning, the Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co. (ICAC), and the Jordan Worst Mills. Despite the fact that the market value of these companies might exceed millions of dinars, the government is determined to sell its stake in them to speed up its privatization philosophy. The Jordan Investment Corp., which is the government's investment arm is encouraging the government's philosophy and always seeks to find buyers, but the whole process depends to a large extent on the size of the demand on the stakes of industrial companies.

Foreign Exchange

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1568
DM	0.4124	0.4145
SFr	0.4801	0.4825
FRF	0.1227	0.1233
YEN (100)	0.5624	0.5652
DEL	0.3667	0.3685
LIT (100)	0.0419	0.0421

Reform program puts Jordan's economy on right track, expert says

By Iham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer

SINCE IT launched its economic reform program in 1989, Jordan has removed many distortions in its economic institutions and succeeded to a certain degree in cementing the economic infrastructure of many vital sectors.

While some who oppose current steps taken to speed up the movement of the program or show reservation to some of these measures, other economic experts and analysts argue that it would have been better if it could have moved even faster. Also they say that all indications point to the efficiency and success of this program.

"This program is very successful according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports, which stresses that Jordan has achieved its targets," says Dr Yusuf Mansur, the director of EU-Jordan Technical

Support Unit at the Ministry of Planning.

Dr Mansur provided examples consolidating his view: "The economic growth rate is higher, the budget deficit is even lower than we expected, and the inflation rate is getting lower." He notes that the inflation level rose only last year because of the hike in the bread prices, which was a step to removing subsidy on some consumer goods. The trade deficit also decreased by about JD 154 million this year.

Through economic figures speak of success of the reform program, there are still several areas to be readjusted.

Moreover, this program has helped to introduce new laws that are a necessity to change old regulations, and replace them with less centralized ones. A series of economic packages has been lately approved by the government and the Lower House, including the



After a much increase in the share index over the last month, the situation at the Amman Financial Market seems to be slowing down again. Today, the index stands at 172.6 points having reached as high as 178 points in early September.

Customs Law, the Companies Law, the Securities Law and the Investment Law.

Referring to the Competition /Anti Trust Law, Dr Mansur who is also the director of the Aid Co-ordination Unit, tells *The Star* that Jordan was used to very protective measures, adding that monopolies can make profits by using cheap and had inputs, old private technologies, raising prices and selling low quality products.

So, when the competition law was introduced, it was to put limits on monopolistic practices.

Dr Mansur continues stressing that it is important to protect competition. "We need an economy where people compete, and citizens have the chance to choose high quality."

But since local manufacturers always seek product improvement, it's only natural for prices to go up. Of course, if one wants to buy a high quality product, then he won't bother if its price is high or low. However, if the economy is no longer protected, consumer would have a wide variety of goods at affordable prices.

Part of the economic reform measures was the privatization of some governmental institutions, which calls for running these companies on commercial basis. Also such philosophy stresses the need to cope with the global tendency towards the free market economy and create a free trade zone by 2010. Privatizing these establishments encourages the private sector to take more active and decisive role in the wheel of progress and development in the country.

The privatization of the Jordan Telecommunication Com-

pany is a good example of the process. "Three years ago, about one-fourth of the population was waiting for the telephone service to reach their homes, because it was not run on business principles."

"It was a sort of protected monopoly that limits the choices of the consumer. However, through the restructuring program, JTC was able to provide its telephone service for a large number of people. New services are also available, for example the company managed through contacts with specialized firms to offer cellular telephone sets that are crucial for the business community."

Mansur suggests, "So Telecommunication has helped a great deal to run business and bridge channels among investors."

But some analysts say people oppose privatization because the argument that the government is only selling off its stakes in the most profitable companies to private hands.

But Dr Mansur refutes such

claims arguing they are ludicrous. He says that the government has a strategy to sell, and adds that it is only natural for private investors to buy the most profitable.

Dr Mansur says it is not true that privatization creates price hikes and increased the jobless rate.

He clarifies "if we move from a government monopoly (or subsidized economy) to the monopoly of the private sector, then one would have been doubtful about the decline in prices." But he adds, "if we move from the government monopoly to competition then prices will tend to fall."

Referring to the dividends that Jordan will get by its membership to the EU and the WTO, Dr Mansur says that "what benefits will accrue to Jordan, depend to a large extent on how we act. We have to deal with these agreements as part of our daily business routine" and he stresses that people should know them, learn them and consider them as part of their strategy.

Arab Bank extends Fund availability until 27 October

ARAB BANK has announced it is to extend the availability of its recently launched Capital Guaranteed Fund in Jordan and Lebanon until 27 October due to heavy demand from investors. The Fund, due to close on 13 October, will remain open for an additional two weeks to give investors a further opportunity to participate in the Fund.

Arab Bank has launched a new Capital Guaranteed Fund across the Middle East, to give investors the opportunity of investing in a fund that guarantees the security of their capital, whilst providing potentially higher returns than traditional deposit and savings accounts.

The Capital Guaranteed Fund was launched in Jordan and Lebanon on 14 September and will now close on 27 October to coincide with the closure of the second tranche of the Fund in UAE, Qatar and Bahrain.

Full details of the Fund are available through Arab Bank's extensive branch network. In addition, Arab Bank has placed a team of specially trained Investment Executives in major branch locations throughout the Middle East who will provide detailed information on the Fund.

The Arab Bank Capital Guaranteed Fund, which requires a minimum investment of US\$5,000, will mature in two years, and provide investors with the opportunity of participating in the rise in the Nikkei Index, Japan's index of leading shares. Based on its considerable knowledge and experience of the Asian marketplace, Arab Bank believes that the Nikkei currently provides attractive valuation and promising future growth potential.

Air Canada launches newly-designed website, opens internet cyber ticket office

AIR CANADA has introduced a newly-designed Internet website that is easier to navigate, faster to download and features more online services for customers and web browsers. At the same time the airline has announced plans to open its Cyber Ticket Office in October following current field testing.

The Cyber Ticket Office will provide passengers and travel agents the convenience of 24-hour access to Air Canada and the ability to make reservations on all Air Canada flights, including regional airlines and all Air Canada's codeshare flights.

Visitors to the Air Canada website—www.aircanada.ca—will now be able to obtain real time flight departure and arrival information, get a faster download and navigate around a

more customer-oriented site architecture, take a virtual tour of the inside of a Boeing 767 complete with a take-off and landing, and browse a number of web pages devoted to the airline's 60th anniversary, destined to become the foundation of an 'online museum'.

The introduction of Air Canada's website in 1995 established a platform for future development and greater interactivity, that process began earlier this year with the launch of 'Webinars', weekly self-taught fares offered by e-mail. In addition, Air Canada Cargo offers a similar service, providing available cargo space directly online.

Customers wishing to access the new Cyber Ticket Office should log on to Air Canada's home page and enter the 'reservations' area. Customers then

have the option of entering the system by creating their own travel profile to speed up future bookings, or simply enter as a guest to view product offerings. From there, customers are prompted to check flight availability for specific time, date and city pair, request fare quotes and actually book flights. Seat and meal preferences and other special needs can also be selected. Payments for bookings can be performed online through a secure browser. Other methods of payment include faxing or phoning credit card information to the help desk. Ticketing options include travel agencies, electronic ticketing, tickets by mail, city sales offices or airport ticket desk pickup. Air Canada's current commission rates will apply for travel agencies.

The remarkable savings habits of the Chinese—even more impressive than those of their thrifty Asian neighbors the Japanese and South Koreans—are much trumpeted by the Beijing government and foreign economists as a positive attribute of China's economy.

A rapidly growing amount of individual savings deposits is both a result of a sustained and rapid development of the Chinese economy and a driving force for further economic growth," Li Yang, director of the Financial Research Center of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said in an interview with *The Chinese* newspaper.

But the banking system's increasing dependence on personal savings, other experts warn, has set the country up for a potentially disastrous run on main state banks. "If ever the government's willingness to stand behind the state banks came into question," warned the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit newsletter, "financial panic would ensue."

Chinese pour savings into questionable banking system

By Ron Tempest

TIJIAN, China—In a recent major report on China, the World Bank identified household savings as "China's real economic miracle." Since China began its economic reforms two decades ago, the report observed, wage earners have saved money in banks at a rate rarely seen in world history—averaging more than 37 percent of this country's gross domestic product.

As a result, in a trend that worries some, the financial fate of the world's most populous country now depends greatly on the nest eggs of common folk like Tianjin restaurant manager Li Jinglin, who said he puts 35 percent of his income in the bank.

"Chinese people save a lot for medical care, for their children's education, for a house they want to buy and because there are not many other places for them to put their money," said Li, deputy manager of the humongous named but very popular Goubuli ("Gou Wudun" "Touch It") chain of restaurants.

Since 1988, household savings deposits in China have skyrocketed from 416 billion yuan (\$61 billion) to more than 3.4 trillion yuan (\$481 billion). In 1988, household savings accounted for 45 percent of all deposits in state banks. This year, the figure is more than 60 percent.

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And why do they keep plunging the money into banks that are so obviously poorly

managed? The answer to the first question is partly cultural. No matter what the political system in power, Chinese have maintained a high savings rate. "Being thrifty and diligent is our Chinese virtue," retired engineer Zhu explained as he stood in line at the Shanghai bank.

The Beijing-based Horizon polling agency recently conducted an extensive survey in five cities about Chinese investment preferences. In one question, the polling agency asked, "If someone handed you 500,000 yuan (\$60,000), what would you do with it?"

About 40 percent of respondents said they would use the money for housing. But the next highest number, 14 percent, said they would bank that sum. Almost 70 percent of those interviewed listed savings as their preferred investment.

Another reason for the high savings rate is that, in the Chinese financial system, there are few other attractive investment options. In 1981, the government began to sell treasury and other bonds. But by 1995, these investments totaled less than one-tenth of household savings.

The market for bonds issued by state-owned enterprises and investment firms—launched in 1986—is even smaller, totaling less than \$5 billion. Likewise, much attention has been paid to China's lively Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges. But studies show that the total market value of all 323 listed companies in 1995 was also only about one-tenth of household savings.

As to why the Chinese continue to blithely deposit their savings in essentially insolvent banks, there are two commonly offered explanations.

The first is that many Chinese simply do not know about their banks' precarious state. "Ordinary Chinese people seldom think about these kinds of questions," said Tianjin restaurant manager Li, who said he is aware of the problem but puts his money in the bank anyway.

The main reason, however, is that most Chinese do not believe—with some justification—that the government would let state banks fail. "I think it boils down to some combination of faith in the government and ignorance about what the real situation is," Lardy said.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

In an examination of the numbers, two questions come to mind: Why do the Chinese save so much money?

And why do they keep plunging the money into banks that are so obviously poorly

Business Chronicle

National budget to be unveiled

THE GOVERNMENT'S commitment to the economic restructuring program, launched in 1989, is part and parcel of the country's budget for the next year.

The budget's draft, currently under study, tackles the tools of the fiscal policy and means to develop them. Finance Minister, Sulaiman Al Hafez has underlined the main aspects of the budget stressing the government's restructuring program as part of a national agenda to remove internal and external distortions.

"As Jordan is going to complete the first stage of the program by next year, it doesn't mean that the government will cease to treat other economic distortions," says Mr Hafez.

The Finance Minister told the cabinet held last week, that upon the recommendations of Prime Minister Abdel Salam Al Majali, an independent budget will be allocated for every governorate.

The budget will be finalized within the framework of the targets seeking to control the deficit and inflation rates.

The volume of Jordan's indebtedness reached \$6.5 billion, and the growth size stood at \$5 billion, and the deficit is estimated at \$3.1 billion, when the 1997 budget was announced, some observers say that the draft budget has no plans to increase salaries of the state's employees.

For this year, the minister points out that the annual increments for all government employees will be included in the general budget.

Referring to the targets of the economic restructuring program, Mr Hafez points out that it managed to remove external and internal economic distortions. The former deals with external debt, balance of payment imbalances and "fattening" reserves.

Internal distortions focus on the budget deficit; internal indebtedness, savings and consumptions. (According to Dr Yusuf Mansur from the Ministry of Planning, the size of consumption in 1989 was about 140 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), this signals a negative savings).

Included in these distortions are also the size of investments, production and inflation, poverty and unemployment.

The readjustment program also takes into consideration means to control and curtail government expenditure to create savings and provide enough finance for governmental investments. This will provide local aid and prevent more loans on donations. Other plans deal with the real pricing of government services, maintaining the strong value of the Jordanian dinar, introducing new economic legislations, keeping control on interest rates, discount rates, reserves, taxes, adjusting financial status of general establishments and deal with the administrative sluggishness phenomenon.

Future prospects call for reducing the list of tax exemptions, remove monopolies, continue privatization, maintain record costs of living and the value of the dinar and encourage the contribution of the private sector in infrastructure projects. Also, the ministry guides the private sector to increase national exports to fill the gap in the balance of payments and boost the programs of social productivity.

Haddadin will be remembered for his role in tourism



LAMEI HADDADIN became one of the most distinguished persons in the Jordanian tourism sector. His untimely death has shocked the Travel and Tourism Agents Association which he was the chairman of. He was outspoken in the areas that affected his members most and wanted to create an association that would be effective and contribute to a growing Jordanian tourism sector. In this respect, he was critical of Israeli tourists coming to Jordan whom he saw as contributing nothing to tourism in this country.

Haddadin, who died last Saturday because of a heart attack, was born in 1945. He started his career working in Royal Jordanian as an administrative assistant. In 1968, he was appointed director of the Syrian Airlines in Kuwait and in 1969, he was named a regional director for Aden Airlines.

In the early 1970s, Haddadin came back to Jordan to lead many pioneer projects in the field of tourism. He was the founder of the Rainbow Travel and Tours Agency and the Golden Wings for Travel and Tourism. As for his contribution in tourism projects, Haddadin participated in the Maqeen Project.

He took part in many aviation courses in England and India. Despite his poor health, he continued to devote much time and effort to the tourism sector and guide the industry towards a more active and efficient performance inside and outside Jordan.

MARKET WATCH

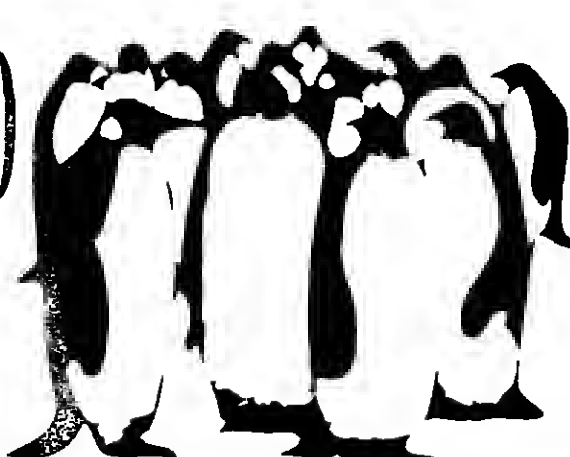
11 - 14 October

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
↑ Highest %	5.41	4.00	6.06	5.00
↓ Lowest %	4.49	3.01	3.23	4.76
↑ Highest %	4.88	5.13	5.26	4.38
↓ Lowest %	2.44	3.15	3.48	3.85
General Price Point	173,480	172,616	172,470	170,880
Trade Volume	1051342	575704	948168	673007
Stock Volume	1012889	582345	867674	664278
Highest Traded Stocks	283868	74259	281376	112040
↓ Highest Bank	United Financial	Housing Bank	Arab Bank	

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

AROUND TOWN



Oriental Trees at RCC

Oriental Gem Trees, an exhibition by Latif Abu Hamdan, will open at the Royal Cultural Center on 18 October. The event, which lasts till 23 October, is a fascinating display of trees in golden wire. These are decorated with semi-precious stones like jade, malachite, peridot and sodalite. Some trees like the "hand blown trees" are without stones. The exhibition is under the patronage of Dr William Habib, the ambassador of Lebanon to Jordan.



Aura Mediterranea

Catalan masters in Amman

By Anca de Maio
Special to The Star

It is not the first time that works by famous names like Picasso are exhibited in Amman. Yet it is the first time ever in Jordan that 24 masters are brought together under one roof. The exhibition of the Catalan Masters of the 20th Century, running at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts is a magnificent show of art. Titled "Aura Mediterranea", it displays originals by Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Joan Miro, Antoni Tapies, Antoni Clave, Torres Garcia and others.

"People keep calling at the Gallery to make sure that what we show are originals and not reproductions or photos of works by all these big names," said the director of the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Mr Dirar Kanaan. "A gift from the people and museums of Catalonia," he went on, "this exhibition was first staged in Atlanta in 1996 during the Olympic Games, (where our gallery was also present with a collection on the theme of calligraphy 'The Right to Write'). He added, "After travelling on the North American continent, the collection of Catalan Masters went back to Spain and now it has set out again for a 'Mediterranean' tour including Jordan, Syria, Tunis, Morocco, Egypt and Turkey and a number of Mediterranean European countries," he said.

The exhibition opened in Amman on 1 October in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the patron of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, and of Her Royal Highness Wajdan Ali, the president of the Jordan National Gallery. The Catalan Minister of Social Welfare, Mr

Antoni Comas and officials from the Institute Catala de la Mediterrania and the Catalan Association at the Foreign Promotion of Culture also attended the opening.

Besides collecting valuable works by contemporary Islamic artists—the original idea behind the creation of the Gallery was to espouse contemporary Islamic Art—including those from the third world countries, it enhances the exchange of exhibitions with other museums and cultural organizations. "Hosting this collection of Catalan Masters before any European country is an honour for us," Mr Kanaan said, pointing out that this was possible thanks to the international activities of the Gallery and to the personal efforts of Princess Wajdan, an artist herself and a visiting professor to many overseas universities.

"The first contacts between the Gallery and Barcelona were actually established by the Jordanian artist Khalid Khreis four months ago," Princess Wajdan told The Star, "and then we took over and approached the Spanish authorities. Because of its importance, we put off a smaller exhibition that was normally scheduled for this autumn and run the Catalan Masters Collection instead," she explained. "Although it is not the first time we host famous artists, (we had the British Sculptors Collection displayed in the early '80s or the Contemporary French Artists), the number of works in the current exhibition far surpasses the former ones," she stressed.

The collection bears the title "Aura Mediterranea" and provides a panoramic view of the art produced at the beginning of the century by famous painters, sculptors and architects that were born in or related to Catalonia, a region of Spain; their lives

and careers often overlapped into a network of modern currents of thought and strong collective identity. Nourished by a common artistic ancestry, the all but fictitious line that goes from Gaudi to Tapies describes the tradition of modernity," (as the delegate of Fine Arts at the Catalan Government, Mr Josep Miquel Garcia put it), and reveals the diverse unity and universality these artists achieved by emphasizing the individual in a "constant dialogue between reason and madness."

Particularly numerous and young, the public who are attracted by the exhibit is especially made up of students from both government and private schools in Amman, Kerak, Zarqa, Madaba, Irbid and the Jordan Valley.

"We are simply fully booked for the whole month," Princess Wajdan said. "I am extremely proud of the fact that our largest visitors come from among the young, because these are the people we want to reach and to encourage to appreciate art," she underlined.

Convinced that 'explaining' art is equivalent to inoculating preconceived ideas and attitudes, she emphasized the importance of leaving children to their own devices of perception and their natural open mindedness.

Furthermore, they will be given other stimulating opportunities of art contemplation at the Jordan National Gallery in the near future. "A very big exhibition from Bangladesh similar to the one we had before from Indonesia will be coming in spring and other smaller painting, paper sculpture and photography exhibitions will take place here too," the Princess said.



A girl in a rope painted by Salvador Dali in 1976

A fun day at the ICS

AMMAN (Star)—Fun and enjoyment is what the International Community School's (ICS) fair was all about. Held last Friday at the school's ground, the fair offered a variety of activities for the more than 1600 people who attended throughout the day.

The organizers went into a great deal of trouble in putting on a lot of activities. These included traditional dancing from Nepal's, a Chechnyan folklore group, a display by the ICS's choir as well as the school's Takwondo group. Jim Morrison entertained the audience with his famous Irish folk music on the guitar, and the end of the day was completed with aerobic dancing, and the draw of a raffle.

A fair wouldn't be a fair without food, and in this respect, the ICS excelled. Dishes were served from over 20 countries that included India, Pakistan, Italy, Sweden and the UK.

Mr Philip Brisley, the headmaster of the ICS, said that all the proceeds from the fair is going to improve the new learning center and provide a range of materials such as computer equipments at the school.



Local television program on board the Concorde

GUESTS OF the popular TV program "Fun Time" got a special treat when they visited Queen Alia International Airport last Sunday and boarded the British Airways Concorde.

The 13 guests of the TV program were given a tour of the supersonic plane by its cabin crew, who explained to them the details of the Concorde's history. The pilot also escorted the children into the cockpit where he explained the landing and take-off procedures and the unique characteristics of the plane.

Certain portions of the TV program, which airs Thursday afternoon on JTV, were filmed on board the plane, with guests sitting in the seats traditionally reserved for businessmen and celebrities. British Airways staff then distributed special gifts to the



guests as souvenir of this special day. This is the 10th consecutive year in which the Concorde has visited the Kingdom. The plane returned to London last Monday afternoon.

THE FAR SIDE

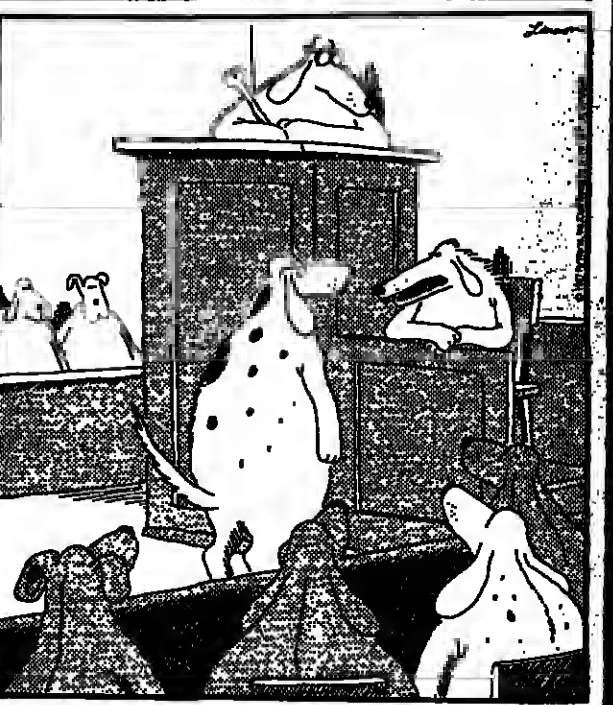
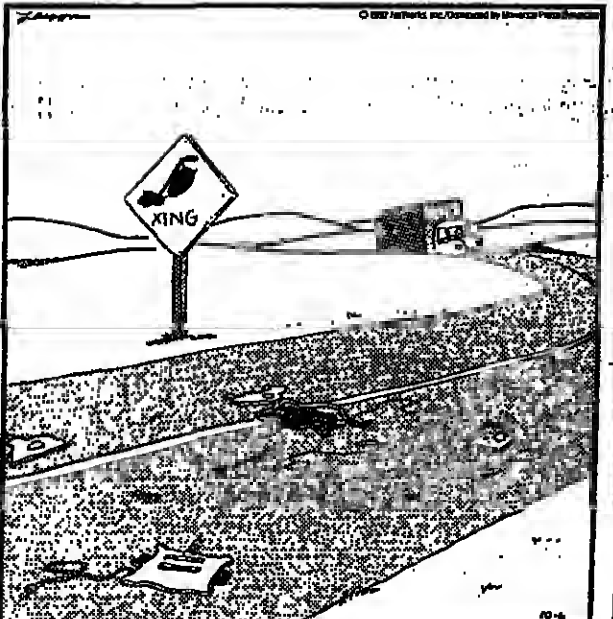
By GARY LARSON



"Several more deaths have been reported in the neck area, and although the authorities won't comment, residents are blaming the new collar."



Early corsages



"Well, the defendant and I had made this deal in which we both prospered....One of those 'you-scratch-me-behind-my-ears-I'll-scratch-you-behind-yours' arrangements."

AGENDA

European Film Festival

■ *Tengo una Casa* (Spain) Thursday, 16 October at 8:00 pm, and on Friday, 17 October, at 4:30 pm.

■ *Grosse Fatigue* (France) Friday, 17 October at 8:00 pm, and on Saturday, 18 October, at 4:30 pm.

■ *Il Grande Cocomero* (Italy) Saturday, 18 October at 8:00 pm, and on Sunday, 19 October, at 4:30 pm.

■ *Malambo* (Austria) Sunday, 19 October at 8:00 pm, and on Monday, 20 October, at 4:30 pm.

■ *Elvira Madigan* (Sweden) Monday, 20 October at 8:00 pm, and on Tuesday, 21 October, at 4:30 pm.

■ *Sense and Sensibility* (UK)

Tuesday, 21 October at 8:00 pm, and on Wednesday, 22 October, at 4:30 pm.

All films will be shown at The Royal Cultural Center till 21 October.

Entrance ticket is JD 1.

Exhibitions

■ *Piecing it Together* by an American artist Virginia R. Harris continues at the American Center till 21 October.

■ A group exhibition entitled "Aura Mediterranea" by the Spanish Catalan Masters of the 20th century continues at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts till 23 October.

■ An Exhibition by Abdul Kader Bakheet continues at Institute Cervantes till 30 October.

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation

An Opera in the Making



The Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory Rida Murtada, conductor

The program features Mozart's Marriage of Figaro Overture and vocal parts from this opera, performed by opera singers: Svetlana Kupazina, Deena Bawab and Lukas Cerny, accompanied by the Orchestra. The concert ends with Mozart's symphony No. 27.

Ticket: JD 7

Tickets available at:
- Alkhayma Supermarkets, tel. 689481
- Alkassar Flowers, tel. 5527695
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Caffa Moka, tel. 856285
- Philadelphia Hotel, tel. 607100
- Safeway, tel. 685311
- The Royal Cultural Center, tel. 689026
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

This concert has been made possible by the support of ROYAL JORDANIAN

SLY comes to super movies in November

NOVEMBER IS Sylvester Stallone Season as Super Movies brings its viewers three of the hottest Sly films to hit the big screens.

Kicking off the line-up Friday, 7 November at 6 pm GMT is the Super Movies premiere of the action/war movie, *First Blood*, co-starring with Brian Dennehy, Richard Crenna and David Caruso. Stallone plays an ex-Vietnam Green Beret falsely arrested by small-town cops. Escaping from jail, he uses his jungle survival skills to lead his pursuers into all kinds of booby traps in the "jungles" of the American Northwest. Can Stallone outmove the army trying to track him down?

The second Stallone movie premiering on Super Movies in the special season is *Rambo III*, showing Friday, 14 November at 6 pm GMT. In this final part of the Rambo series, John Rambo (Stallone) finds himself living peacefully in a Buddhist monastery. His peace is interrupted when he receives a visit from State Department Official, Griggs (Kurtwood Smith). He informs Rambo that colonel Sam Trautman (Richard Crenna), who was a father figure in Rambo, has been kidnapped during a Soviet surprise attack on the Pakistani side of the Afghanistan border. As the action was a violation of international law, the American government is unable to take any action to save Trautman. Rambo decides to take the law into his own hands and seek out his good friend. When he finds him, the two men must fight in an explosive battle for freedom.

Concluding the Stallone Season is *Lock Up* showing Friday, 21 November at 6 pm GMT, co-starring Donald Sutherland, Darlanne Fleugel and John Amos. Stallone plays Frank Leone, a model prisoner with only six months left to serve. Abducted from his cell in the middle of the night, he is transported to a dungeon, run by Warden Drumgoole. It is Drumgoole's mission to make Stallone's life so miserable that he will try and escape again, thereby extending his sentence. Will Leone be able to hold out? ■

Murtada performs Marriage of Figaro with NMC



AS A part of its musical season 1997/1998, the National Music Conservatory (NMC) will host Jordanian conductor Rida Murtada to conduct the Orchestra of the NMC in a concert entitled "An Opera in the Making." The concert will be held on Thursday 23 October at the Royal Cultural Center. The concert begins with Mozart's ever popular *Marriage of Figaro* overture. The concert proceeds with the Orchestra accompanying singers performing vocal parts from the *Marriage of Figaro* opera. The second part of the concert will be completely devoted to Mozart's *Symphony in A major*.

Rida Murtada was born in Jordan in 1975. At eleven he began his violin studies in Germany. In 1994 he extended his studies to the piano and conducting. Three years later he started progressive studies of conducting and piano at the Academy of Music in Bremen, Germany with Martin Fischer-Dieskau. ■

The Star 652380 - 645380

كانا من اجل

AUTO '98

Amman International Motor Show '98

Latest car models under one roof

AMMAN (Star)—The biggest motor show in town, which has opened, Tuesday, is in full swing. International Car Show '98 has opened its doors to a blistering welcome. Already car enthusiasts are coming in large numbers.

Under the patronage of HRH Prince Abdallah bin Al Hussein, the show has the latest car models that are on the market for 1998. All the latest top models are being displayed. These range from the latest Rover models to the BMWs, and Toyotas, to the Hyundai, Nissans, Isuzus, Daewoos, Mazdas, Fiats, Hondas, Volvos, Opels, Chryslers, Fords, and Saabs.

Minister of Youth, Qassem Abu Ati opened the car show on behalf of his Prince Abdallah.

All in all, 35 car distributors in Jordan, are displaying the latest in what people are increasing saying is car fashion design show. In fact, this is what is most distinctive from the previous years.

The flair, the car body, the attractive design is all being displayed all under one roof.

But that's not all. What you, as the individual consumer, is likely to see till the end of the show on 20 October is to car agents and end part retailers of spareparts and other motor accessories.

This is essential, if the consumer is to become acquainted with the latest designs, techniques and spareparts that is necessary for today's constantly changing market.

Indeed, it gives this annual show a special air of significance. The event, which is held at the Amman International Motor Show (AIMS), is an auspicious occasion that seeks to bring the most up-to-date models to the Jordanian consumer under one roof.

The Manager of AIMS, Mr Mohammad Kheirallah tells *The Star*, that the show this year is carefully planned out designed to give the consumer the best. He adds that every year between 35,000 to 40,000 visit the motor show which has 7,000 square meters of floor space. However, this year he hopes that at the end of the six-day display, the number of visitors would top the 50,000 marks.

The figures indicate that people from all walks of life visit the event that is situated right at the beginning of the Airport Road. You don't need to be a car buyer to visit the show, people just go to wonder around and see what is new on the market.

Contrary to its name, the Amman International Motor Show, is a private company that was set up in 1989 to dis-



Kheirallah

play many different kinds of exhibitions. Mr Kheirallah today puts the Show on par

with other shows that exist in Dubai. He says that since its establishment, the show has become international, holding exhibitions from Europe and Italy, pointing out that the aim is to induce international business.

These shows are very important because they provide a very important link between the consumer and the producer, acting as a sort of barometer to the whole economy. He says they become crucial especially during periods of economic downturns. Hence, by providing this fiscal interactions between the two economic agents, these shows and exhibitions not only help to provide stability to the economic swings, but also to provide prosperity.



Minister of Youth Dr. Qassem Abu Ein, delegating for HRH Prince Abdallah bin Al Hussein, opens the Amman International Show '98, Tuesday

What is likely to be more distinctive about this year's event is a prize draw. For the first time, a car is being offered by the Al Khayyat for

Cars Est., which is being raffled. A French Peugeot 306 model will go to the winner of

the raffle ticket which will be drawn at the end of the exhibition.



ISUZU

The latest car in the Isuzu row in the show

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Motor Show

MOTOR SHOW 98

15- 20 / 10 / 1997

Daily from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.



AUTO '98

The Jordan Motor Company, agents for Rover and MGF cars

Best in elegance, style and durability

AMMAN (Star)—The Jordan Motor Company (JMC), agents of saloon cars for the Rover Group (the British Motor Manufacturing Co.) in Jordan is exhibiting the Rover 800, the Rover 400 and the MGF cars.

Rover cars are well-known for their elegance, luxury and durability. They meet the requirements of safe driving and are equipped with all security specifications that suit family use.

The Rover 800 is highly luxurious, elegant and has distinct specifications such as the driver's airbag, ABS (Anti Brake System), the central lock-up system (remote control) and an automatic air-conditioner.

The individual Rover 400 is available at affordable price with a 4 cylinder engine at 16 valves. It is designed for sporting comfort. It has the ABS, air conditioner, adjustable steering for facile driving. The Rover 400 is equipped with security systems that include the driver's airbag and the height adjustable seat belts.

MGF, introduced last March by the Jordan Motor Company, is considered as one of the most fantastic sports car. The double-seater which is unique in for its youthful and sporting shape is expected to attract the attention of most visitors to the Amman International Motor Show '98. MGF has made a revolution in the car world and was exhibited at the Geneva Car Show two years ago.

The MGF engine is equipped with the Rover K engine and 1.8 litres width. Its engine is well-known for its valves flexible control system that makes driving even smoother.

Its maximum speed is 130 miles/hour and gears up at an initial speed of 60 miles/hour within seven seconds.

The MGF has broken the record in land speed as its height speed reached 217 miles/hour during the speed week celebrations that took place in Bonneville City in the US. That's why it is considered the fastest car around.

Referring to the presence of Rover in the Show, Mr Nihad Zakhariya, director of the JMC says, his company has a long experience with Rover Group. "We are proud to exhibit three famous models at the show which proves their importance year by year," he says.

The Jordan Motor Company was first established in 1949 as a private shareholding company. However its existence goes back to the post-World War I starting in Jerusalem.

Today, the company has become a firm fully owned by the Zakhariyah family. Rover cars were on display in Jordan since 1994, after an absence of 11 years. They proved a real success and maintained a high stake in the cars' market.

Such a success can be attributed to Rover's reputable service which provides mobility and high quality, besides the unique post-sale service offered by the Jordan Motor Company.

Quality, durability and comfort is what buyers are looking in a car, and in this respect Rover and the MGF have all three elements.



Mr Nihad Zakhariya



By Paul Dean

ON THE day the data descended, Bill Baker was doing precisely what one would expect of a polished spokesman for regal vehicles: escorting Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, first cousin of Queen Elizabeth, at the dedication of Land Rover North America's new Maryland headquarters.

On the other side of the continent, J.D. Power & Associates announced its survey of the quality of 1997 domestic and imported cars and trucks.

And Land Rover, 50-year-old monarch of sport utilities, holder of as many royal warrants as Harrods, was jammed between Suzuki and Kia at the bottom of the 38-manufacturer list.

Impudent Jeep kicked Land Rover's spare tire by several dozen points. Even Plymouth scored higher. And General Motors had nine vehicles burying Land Rover, best known as the four-wheel drive of choice of Pope John Paul II, most of Aspen and parking valets from Spago to Tavern on the Green.

Baker, however, did not fall on his hood ornament. Or snivel before Her Highness.

"It is difficult to understand that we could be excited about this result," he says. True. About as excited as the Chicago Bulls after a 193-56 thumping by Loyola Marymount. "But we have made stunning improvements since last year's (Initial Quality Survey), with Range Rover showing a 51-point improvement and Discovery up 69 points."

"But obviously we have a long way to go."

Obviously. So does Pontiac. It scored higher than Land Rover but lower than South Korea's Hyundai. Pontiac also tied with Japan's Suzuki, three up from the bottom in Power's annual poll of 44,000 owners and drivers of all personal vehicles domestic and imported. Then came Land Rover dribbling into the cellar

ahead of Kia, another South Korean newcomer and builder of an unremarkable sedan and a compact sport utility struggling to be accepted as capable.

Power's automotive Oscars—used just like Hollywood's gilt statuettes to tout current products, build makers' profits and strengthen box-office appeal—covers 89 categories and collates snitching oo squeaks and rattles, the fit of nuts and bolts, the finish of paint and door panels, dealer courtesies, maximum bang for the buck, minimum problems for the dollar, how doors open and how trunks close.

On the pink and fuzzy end of the evaluations, Infiniti, Lexus, Honda and Toyota were top of the heap, a monotonous Asian replay of previous years. Mercedes-Benz was fifth and the top European marque, with Saturn the highest-ranked American car in seventh place, just behind Volvo and slam-dunking Acura, Jaguar, BMW, Porsche and Cadillac. (Ferrari, Rolls-Royce, Lamborghini and Bentley are not rated because their sales are blips that deny measurement. As their pricing defies understanding.)

"But being in the bottom five is certainly not as bad as it used to be," explains John Rette, editorial director for Power, the California-based research firm. "Even the bad ones are doing a lot better than the average were a few years ago, because the bar is moving higher every year."

Powertrain reliability has become a given, he adds, rain leaks are a thing of the past, and engines are no longer prone to meltdowns because nobody these days is building clunkers.

Yet as cars get better, Rette continues, buyer expectations rise until there is an inconvenient tendency to pick nits.

"As you make a car quieter and (aerodynamically) slipperier, wind noise can be created by a side mirror, which you didn't hear before because of tire or road noise," he says. "Twenty years ago, nobody cared about a squeak in the dashboard, but now you do."

As a courtesy to the covering, Power never announces car makers who have fallen into the grease pit. But this year, one manufacturer—presumably gloating among the Top 10—leaked the full list to the Associated Press.

For the first time, the Final Five has no place to hide.

Kia—knocked down for squeaky brakes, wind noise and warning lights made liars by wonky computer diagnostics—was brave about its wooden medal.

Its last spot, says spokesman Geno Effler, is still 20 points better than Kia's past. And, he says, results are



Hyundai

skewed because Kia's sell in small numbers, and the Power survey lumped its Sonata sedan with the Sportage sport utility to come up with a large enough representative sample.

"We're not at all staid about being in the cellar," he says. "What is encouraging is that most of our problems per vehicle are fixable, and it's not like a major, inherent flaw that is going to keep the car in the shop and somebody can't drive it."

On the other hand, the public is infamous for forging vague perceptions into piston-hard realities. And with the Range Rover a \$55,000-leader in price, luxury, heritage and snob appeal, even an elevation from dreadful to terrible is still bloody awful.

Particularly when it means snuggling with Kia, parents of a \$15,000 sport ute still lacking a passenger-side air bag and four-wheel anti-lock brakes.

General Motors scored well overall, says spokesman Tom Klipstine, but some models were clobbered by teething problems attendant to all redesigned vehicles. Such as the 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix, dishonored for "squeaks and rattles," and we'll look at them then behind all the numbers to understand why that particular score was there.

Although little, apparently, can be done to understand the fickle nature of today's car buyer. For a typical customer, Klipstine says, will think more of a car if some small bug is squashed quickly and permanently than if the problem hadn't surfaced in the first place.

Hyundai was hurt by a computer chip producing sloppy shifting in the Sonata. The first-year Tiburon was chastised for chirps and rattles of its maiden fit and finish. And despite a Power score that has improved 50 percent in two years, says representative Chris Hosford, the image of Hyundai rests uneasily somewhere between an '87 Yugo and the '99 Mets.

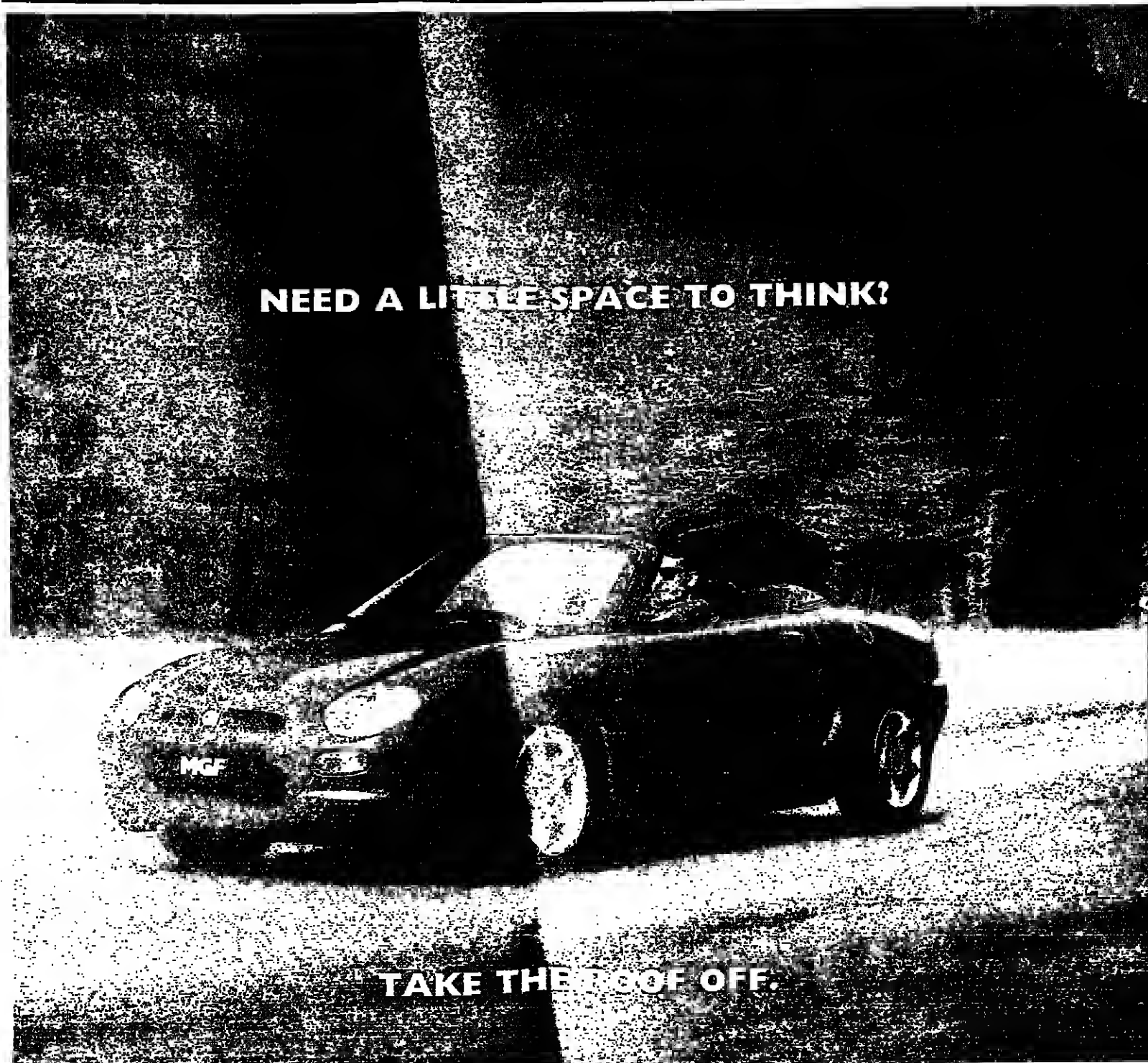
Suzuki, smarting and with less civility than others below the cut, seems to think: J.D. Power should stick its report where Tuneup Masters dump its oil. Representatives say it collides head-on with their own customer surveys. Maybe, they hint darkly, Power is keeping Suzuki sleeping with the fishes because the company doesn't purchase Power's market research.

"We laugh because no matter what report J.D. Power comes out with, we're always at the bottom," said Gary Anderson, vice president of sales and marketing. If there were problems, he explains, dealers would be squeaking and customers would be yelling.

"But it is (J.D. Power's) business. He can ask what he wants. He can slice and dice the information. But we're familiar with these franchises, we know where we rank, and it isn't here."

Asked about Suzuki's shaky scores, the possibility of error, the charge of revenge and the chance of false ballots, a Power researcher was unsentimental but succinct: "Yeah, right."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



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AUTO '98

Isuzu Rodeo

Improved and still truckin'

By Tom Incantapelo

FOR OBVIOUS reasons, when you drive a convertible top-down you tend to watch for birds roosting in trees and vandals toasting on overpasses with cement blocks in their hands. When you ride a motorcycle you watch for patches of sand on the road.

When you drive most trucks you soon learn to watch out for bumps and not to be sipping coffee when you hit one. And sometimes you cringe a little when a big one is coming up.

Try as they might, automakers have yet to make a pickup, sport-utility vehicle or full-size van that rides and handles like a car — that doesn't sway in turns and slam harshly over bumps. Some, like Chrysler Corp., seem to have tried harder than others, and the effort really shows in its Jeep Grand Cherokee, which rides and handles better than most sport-utility vehicles.

Isuzu, on the other hand, seems to have opted for a truckier personality for the Rodeo, a competitor of the Grand Cherokee. And that personality is carried on in the 1998 model now on sale. For sure, though, the '98 Rodeo is an improvement over its predecessor in many ways: It's got a wider track, a 285-pound weight reduction, a beautiful new exterior and interior, a quieter cabin and many other changes.

Still, it's a truck and nothing but a truck. If you liked the old one, you're sure to like the new Rodeo even more.

On sale since Sept. 8, the '98 incorporates the most complete makeover since 1991 of this popular sport-utility vehicle. Changes include a part-time, four-wheel drive system that engages on the fly at the touch of a button, rather than with a floor lever, and disengages just as easily. (There's still a floor lever, but its only purpose is to engage the four-wheel drive low range for extra-tough going off-road or in deep snow.)

While some car makers, such as Chrysler, have opted for full-time all- or four-wheel drive systems, Isuzu thinks it's better not to have the engine saddled with the extra friction of a full-time system when, most of the time, rear-wheel drive is perfectly good enough.

Hard to argue with that, although, with 205 horsepower pumping through its crankshaft, the Rodeo's optional engine can easily spin a rear tire on dry



Isuzu Trooper

pavement to hard acceleration. And the Rodeo's four-wheel drive system can't be engaged unless the pavement is wet.

That engine, refined for '98, produces 15 horsepower more than its predecessor.

The Rodeo's floor pan is lower than before for easier entry.

Isuzu, which builds many of its trucks in Lafayette, Ind., with Subaru, has obviously worked hard to quiet the cabin, and the Japanese car maker is quite justified in claiming that wind whistle and noise from the Rodeo's drive train and tires have been reduced to carlike levels.

The new interior includes a richer-looking dashboard. Displays are clear; controls are well-located. No complaints from us, except for a few radio buttons whose markings were hard to read at night and a clock that kept losing hours no matter how many times we reset it.

The horn button is now at the center

of the steering wheel, where it belongs, and the temperature and air-flow mode controls are dials rather than slide levers or pushbuttons — in our opinion, the best arrangement for easy use on the move.

There are bucket seats up front — no power operation is available — and there's a 50-50 split bench in back that can hold three people. For maximum cargo room, the rear-seat bottom cushions fold forward, then the seatbacks fold down almost flat.

Our tester's spare was on the tailgate. The rear window, which hinges upward, is notched so that the spare doesn't interfere when the window is opened. The tailgate itself hinges to the left, spare and all. For no extra charge, you can have the spare beneath the vehicle instead of on the tailgate, if you prefer it that way.

Isuzu says a new suspension for '98 reduces the tendency of the rear tires to chatter under hard acceleration and

also improves the ride and handling.

The Rodeo comes in eight versions, with the cheapest starting at \$17,995 with a four-cylinder engine, stick shift and rear-drive only. Our tester was the most expensive, an LS with four-wheel drive and the V-6, starting at \$27,910.

The LS trim level includes luxury items such as air-conditioning, power windows and locks, remote keyless entry with an alarm, cruise control, leather-wrapped steering wheel, wood-grain trim inside, tinted glass, power mirrors and more.

In all, the new Rodeo is a better vehicle, sure to please fans of the old one.

One more thing, in case you're not familiar with Isuzu's lineup: It is the larger Trooper, not the Rodeo, that is involved in the ongoing dispute with Consumer Reports magazine over an alleged propensity to roll over. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Chrysler's new crowd pleaser

By Warren Brown

NEW YORK—The object of approbation was the 1998 Dodge Durango. Chrysler Corp.'s new sport-utility vehicle, which was parked on an Upper West Side street.

The tested Durango had a black body with a blacked-out grille and a dark gray, leather-covered interior. It was a muscular work, with fender bulges front and rear, all of which sat atop highly polished, chrome-plated wheels.

Background: Chrysler is looking for buyers aged 30 to 48 years old, with annual household incomes ranging from \$50,000 to \$75,000. About 75 percent of those prospective buyers are men, mostly married with children.

Chrysler's marketers believe those buyers want a sport-utility vehicle that is big enough to carry as many as eight people, strong enough to tow up to 7,000 pounds, nimble enough to move through an urban environment, and rugged enough—should its owners

desire to do so—to traverse a variety of unpaved roads.

The Durango, thus, is offered as "an aggressive and exceptionally versatile compact sport-utility vehicle" that also is "a more-convenient, practical and fun-to-drive alternative to full-size SUVs." Chrysler's marketers say.

It isn't clear if that means Chrysler expects the Durango to cannibalize some sales of its Jeep Cherokee and Grand Cherokee models, which are also fun and, depending on one's definition of utility, quite practical in handling a number of chores. What is clear is that Chrysler has a heck of an attention-gener in the Durango.

Durango buyers will have a choice of three engines, including the tested 5.9-liter Magnum V-8, which is rated 250 horsepower at 4,400 rpm, with torque rated 345 pound-feet at 3,200 rpm. That's a great engine for folks who plan to pull travel trailers. But it makes little real-world sense for people who plan to pull little or nothing at all, or who have no

desire to traverse the Rockies without the benefit of interstate highways.

A more sensible engine would be the 175-horsepower, 3.9-liter Magnum V-6, or the 230-horsepower, 5.2-liter Magnum V-8. An electronically controlled, four-speed automatic transmission is standard with all engine choices. Standard brakes include power front discs/rear drums with antilock backup.

A note here: Chrysler's new generation of antilock brakes exhibit little of the pedal shudder evident during the application of antilocks in older Chrysler cars and trucks. The company's engineers hope that the smoother antilocks will prevent people from erroneously pumping the brakes during panic stops. Proper braking of antilocks requires maintaining steady pressure on the brake pedal until the vehicle stops, or the crash hazard is avoided. □

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Reindeer herders look to capitalism for boost

By Vanora Bennett

ABOVE SEBYAN-KYUZEL, Russia—Velvet-antlered reindeer are tethered outside the nomads' tents, trampling whitish moss underfoot and barking softly as the full moon rises. There's snow in the air. The autumn temperature is well below freezing in the austere beautiful hills of the Russian Far North.

And when the old men of the Evenki people go to sleep in the reindeer-herding uplands of their forefathers, they say they listen to the earth beneath them snoring.

Ignore the signs of poverty—the much-patched canvas of the encampments, the cheap clothes of artificial fiber on the herders' backs—and this is an idyllic picture. After decades of Soviet attempts to settle them in permanent villages, the Evenki folk are still hearing the call of the wild.

"To a stranger, our life may seem savage and primitive," reflected Innokenty Burtsev, 39, the head of a four-family traveling group whose camp is pitched near a foaming stream. "But to us, it's just life. The life our fathers led before us, what's in our blood. We actually like it."

Soviet bosses never quite worked out how best to get the 17,000 Evenki to serve communism. For ideological reasons, they settled some in "civilized" permanent villages; for economic reasons, they kept others on the road herding reindeer. Now that the Evenki population has been cut loose from that past by the new Russian market economy, they are trying their own solution: living by their traditions and getting capitalism to serve them.

Innokenty's herders hope to earn money by using their expertise and finding ways to package and market reindeer products in Russia and abroad. His people's dream is to set up a small, profitable industry in reindeer production—not relying on the government of the Sakha Republic, a region on Russia's northeast rim, or on inefficient Moscow seven time zones away.

Russian reindeer herders draw inspiration from the foreign indigenous peoples of the

North whom they have met at conferences, or read about, or seen on television: the Canadians and Americans and Norwegians who lead a modified version of their traditional life, but with hot showers, phones, televisions and proper incomes.

"That's how it should be done," sighed Innokenty's wife, Lyuda Burtseva, describing a 1995 Moscow conference of indigenous peoples. "Just imagine—hot showers every day would be paradise."

The life that Evenki herders live is spartan. The Burtsevs migrate six times a year, moving with Herd No. 2 from winter woods up to their summer pastures above the valley settlement of Sebyan-Kyuzel. The "family brigade," which includes the Burtsevs, Innokenty's mother, her sister, and his father's sister, are waiting for the reindeer mating season to end this month before packing their tents again and heading to the forests for winter.

Innokenty's friend, Evenki ethnographer Anatoly Alexeyev, has been working for three years with the Sakha American Business Center on a \$630,000 project to set up seven mobile meat-processing plants. Now the United Nations Development Program is helping to raise \$1.5 million for a separate program, aiming to set up meat-processing mini-factories and show the Evenki how to market their products internationally.

Reindeer was popular in northern Russian regions during Soviet times, but transportation problems have made it hard to obtain. It is considered a luxury in the Nordic countries that also produce it; there it is prized higher than beef and eaten smoked or roasted.

Bill Dickens, special adviser in Moscow with the UN agency, said: "We believe it will be self-sustaining in three years. They'll have a source of income and livelihood."

Getting projects off the ground has proved difficult. "We're already in the third year of the American Business Center project, the [Sakha] government took the decision to allocate the money...but it never

came, for the simple reason that there was no money," said Alexeyev. A donor conference for the UN project was held last month.

Still, if money materializes, there are plenty of other problems to overcome.

The 20-odd state helicopters that serviced the remote North in Soviet days, transporting people and products to town from the wilds at no cost to the herders, have been sold off or privatized. Hiring a private helicopter costs an unthinkable \$1,000-an-hour. "If our meat has to go out by helicopter now, it will cost as much as gold!" Alexeyev said, laughing.

Without choppers, the herders and the farm in Sebyan-Kyuzel have much less chance of getting their reindeer meat and horn to Yakutsk, the local capital, 1 hour away by air. There is no tarmac road out of Sebyan-Kyuzel, and there are no spareparts for vehicles. Most cars are in such bad shape they cannot get the certificate of roadworthiness they need to leave the village and travel down a rough dirt track.

If the herders manage to get meat to market in Yakutsk, where reindeer is still prized, it is hard to find buyers. Yakutsk has started importing reindeer meat from abroad—weighed, labeled and packaged in bright plastic packages—and the foreign product is cheaper than the roughly wrapped reindeer meat that costs so much to get to town.

Murky accounting across the vast distances of a region seven times the size of California muddles the picture further.

Herders say they sell reindeer horn to middlemen, who give them just 5 percent profits and sell the horn to factories in Yakutsk and in a more distant Russian city, Khabarovsk. The horn is used by the Evenki as a cure-all, drunk in tea; in several Asian countries, it is prized as an aphrodisiac.

But officials in one factory near Yakutsk said they paid the reindeer herders 70 percent of the money they made from selling horn.

"If things don't improve soon, we'll be



An Evenki herder of Siberia, with ropes in hand, tends the reindeer of Herd No. 2 prior to bringing the animals back to the road camp for milking.

forced to go back to the totally tribal way our forefathers lived," Alexeyev said. He has been living with the Burtsevs' Herd No. 2 in recent months while he researches a book on customs of the Evenki, one of three big nomadic groups in this area of northern Russia who speak a Tungus-Manchu language, practice shamanism and have occupied their land since well before the majority Yakuts, a Turkic people, conquered the area. "Just us, our tents, our knives and guns, and the reindeer."

The government of a region with vast riches in diamonds and gold is uninterested in the problems facing the Evenki. Officials are more worried about cutting deals with international businesses than looking after what regional Foreign Minister Vitaly Aramonov dismisses as "the smallest of our minorities."

There are only 21,000 indigenous people in the Republic of Sakha; 10 times as many people, mostly ethnic Yakuts and Russians, live in Yakutsk. The Republic of Sakha, formerly Yakutia, has a total population of

more than 1 million.

Aramonov wants foreign aid to go to the majority. Indigenous people were living a "Stone Age" life, he said. The laws of progress and profit dictated that they give it up and move into modern times. "I am sometimes surprised that you former hunters and reindeer breeders from places like Paris and Oslo want us to stay hunters forever," he said with heavy irony. "This arouses no special enthusiasm among us."

Leftover social problems from the Soviet era face the Evenki closer to home. A Soviet conviction that nomadism was "uncivilized" pushed most reindeer herders into villages by the 1950s, where their native language was all but replaced by Yakut, the regional language, or Russian. Mostly male herders worked after that for collective farms, in small groups in the tundra, separated from their families living in the villages. Alcoholism, heart disease, alienation and a widening generation gap led to the emptying of the villages, as young people headed to the city to look for a new

way of life.

But there are reasons for hope. Sebyan-Kyuzel is a "rundown, cramped place, where fuel is a problem, the school is freezing all winter and the hospital has been boarded up for lack of state money. Still, locals talk of the beginning of a revival of Evenki culture."

About 700 people live here, most of them related, more women and children than men. Prices are at least twice as high as in Yakutsk. Many teenagers want to leave and study in Yakutsk. Some giggle and admit that their secret aim is to get rich quick as part of the nationwide hunger for wealth that has gripped Russia.

Over the past few years, however, the local language that the Evenki speak has been taught in schools, first for half the 11-year curriculum and later right through. Students can now study their language at the university level in Yakutsk.

LA Times-Washington Post
New Service

ROCK TRACKS

By Stacy Jenel Smith

David Bowie certainly got a turn-out of the beautiful people during his L.A. concert stand. He held court backstage at the Universal Amphitheatre with the likes of Johnny Depp, Jimmy Smits, Nastassia Kinski, Naomi Campbell, Terry Gilliam, David Lynch, Dwight Yoakam, Slash, members of The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Alice in Chains—and, of course, David's fabulous wife, Iman, who's traveling with him. Before that, Alanis Morissette and Live's Ed Kowalczyk were among the music heavyweights who turned out for his oh-so-tightly-packed (steamy!) Hollywood Athletic Club concert—which got even steamier when he started the song "Fashion" backed by screens with fleeting images of bondage.

Bowie's playing an unusual mix of anthems, clubs and ballrooms on this tour. In a highly prolific phase, he's also writing material for a new album—with a possibility it'll be ready next year. He has nothing pending on the acting front at the moment, but you'd better believe he was passed several scripts for his consideration while playing in L.A.

Didja hear the one about the Rolling Stones trying to get former member Bill Wyman to rejoin the band for its "Bridges to Babylon" tour? Word from insiders has it that Wyman was offered a guaranteed \$2 million to come back for the tour, but he said, "I'm retired, I'm retired." That takes guts. Or a ton of money.

John Entwistle of The Who says he has the ghost who wanders his Gloucester, England estate to thank for a tape he used in creating the soundtrack album of the syndicated live-action/animation show, "Van Pines." He lets us know that "a lot of weird things have happened" in the 22 years he's inhabited his 187-year-old manse, "and that's not just the bands who've visited." Among them: sightings of a lady in 19th century garb walking the grounds with a ghost labrador, the camera of an unwelcome photographer falling apart, picture windows opening and shutting by themselves. Entwistle's apparently in-the-know groundskeeper has told him the ghost likes John. Anyway, this time out, Entwistle was looking for a recording of late Who drummer Keith Moon pounding out licks for a never-used song. According to John, he'd been looking for the recording for awhile, and voiced his view that if the ghost really did like him, she ought to help him find the tape. A few hours later, he was about to give up the search when tapes spontaneously fell off a shelf behind him, right in front of the Moon recording—which now has a place on the TV show soundtrack album. Entwistle and his "Van Pines" collaborator, Steve Laouge, are talking about doing concert performances of the soundtrack material, possibly even a tour.

Country star Clint Black is going the actor route. He and wife and Lisa Hartman are going to team in a CBS-TV movie about late rodeo star Jack Favor. Lisa will co-produce with Clint and co-star as Ponder Favor, who stuck by her man when he served eight years in Louisiana State Penitentiary for a murder/robbery he didn't commit. Black has tried to get the Favor story to screen for several years, had it at first one network, and then offered it to CBS early in '97. The green light has finally come; shooting is expected to start in November. "I think Lisa and I always knew that somehow, someday, we'd find a way to work together, but we didn't think it would happen this soon," Black says. "Still Holding On," the top five Country single from his hit album, "Nothin' But the Taillights," is, he says, "about Jack and Ponder—about anyone who has to be away from someone they love."

Battleground Berlin: CIA vs KGB in The Cold War, by David E. Murphy, Sergei A. Kondrashev and George Bailey. Yale University Press \$19.95, \$30 pages

Reviewed by Alexander Nicol

EVEN AS the second world war ended, the victors were forming themselves up for another one. The focal point for the new confrontation was Berlin, capital of the vanquished country, divided up for administration by the four powers, but deep within the Soviet zone of Germany.

On July 4, 1945, an Ameri-

can team flew in to set up what became the Berlin Operations Base of the Central Intelligence Agency in a building which, according to this book, "looked like the set for a movie adaptation of a Le Carré novel."

The reference is about the only concession to the wealth of accounts, fictional or otherwise, of the deadly games which were played in Berlin over the next 44 years. For the

authors have better credentials than most others for telling the story. David E. Murphy was head of the CIA's Berlin base and later chief of its Soviet operations. Sergei A. Kondrashev headed the German department of the KGB, the Soviet state security service. The third author, George Bailey, is a journalist and former director of Radio Liberty.

Their book represents an extraordinary collaboration

between former adversaries. Although Murphy and Kondrashev were not directly pitted against each other in Berlin, their activities were at times closely related. Kondrashev, when on assignment to London, was the case officer handling George Blake, a Soviet spy inside British intelligence. Blake told the Russians about plans for a tunnel which was dug underneath the Soviet sector of Berlin in order to tap

Soviet communications in operation in which Murphy was closely involved.

The story of the tunnel is one of many famous episodes, already the subject of innumerable accounts, which receive new and uniquely authoritative treatment in this book, which covers the period from 1945 up to and including the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

It is not an easy read: the reader will benefit most if already familiar with the events of the time. But the book adds valuable insights based on the authors' personal experiences and newly opened KGB and CIA files. It will cast some light into the shadows. It is unlikely to resolve many of the mysteries which are still hotly debated: who was so-and-so really working for, what did he tell to whom?

And did it matter? It is tempting, when reading about some of the more absurd situations, to wonder what on earth was the point of it all. For example, what was supposed to be a clandestine meeting in a cafe in Vienna between Murphy and a Soviet spy whom he thought he was attempting to recruit, turned into a brawl between CIA and KGB agents posted at other tables around them. It appeared that the KGB had in fact been intending to kidnap Murphy. The police sent them all home.

There were plenty more intricate Le Carré-type games: the use of German women to lure Soviet officers into defecting (but was the ringmaster really working for the Russians?), the defection of Otto John, head of the West German counter-intelligence agency, to the Soviets, his subsequent reappearance in the west and attempts to clear his name (this year, John took that mystery to his grave.) This sort of thing is what comes to most people's minds when they think of spies.

Espionage is mostly not so interesting as this, but more important. People like Murphy, who have spent a lifetime fighting for their countries, but cloaked in secrecy, find not surprisingly that their

work has not been well understood, sensationalised, fantasised, discredited. They want the truth to be told, even though it may be a lot less glamorous than the fiction.

This desire is especially evident in the account of the tunnel dug in 1955 under the Soviet zone to tap telephone lines, an operation which was compromised from the start by George Blake. Murphy argues persuasively that it was still worthwhile: to protect Blake, hardly any Russians knew of it, and no restrictions were placed on what was said on the many lines tapped. It provided information for 11 months until the Russians broke it up. "One must conclude," the authors say, "that the tunnel did in fact produce a large amount of badly needed and difficult to obtain military intelligence."

Most intelligence consists of the painstaking construction of a picture of the enemy, and especially of what his armed forces are doing. This book shows that in the earliest confrontations over Berlin, Washington could be sure, based on its intelligence, that the Russians, whatever their belligerent statements, were not in fact preparing for war. There can be little doubt that the CIA's Berlin Operations Base continued to provide valuable support to its political masters during the extremely tense and dangerous years which led to the Berlin wall.

Murphy was surprised to find that, although the KGB gathered excellent information and it is stunning to find how much they knew of the west's deliberations the information which was passed to Stalin and his successors was delayed or distorted so as not to incur their paranoia-inspired wrath. At one point, the Soviets' information-gathering operations in East Germany were decimated as a result of a Moscow power struggle. "These people lived in a grotesque world," Murphy says. The more prosaic lesson is that intelligence is only worthwhile if the politicians are enlightened enough to know how to use it.

Financial Times Syndication

Deadly games in Berlin

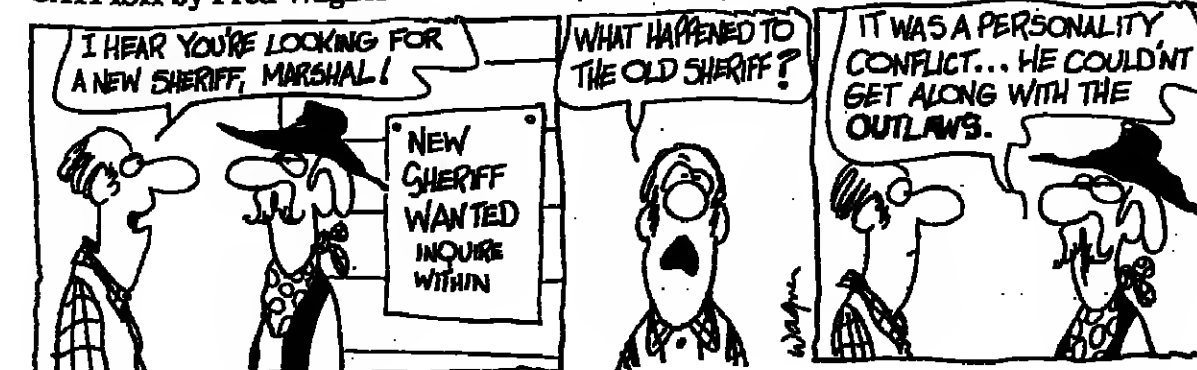
PERKY & BEANZ by Russell Myers



ELWOOD by Ben Templeton & Tom Forman



CATFISH by Fred Wagner & Tom Cone



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The Star's GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 18 - 24 October

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—Twinkle
2:30—Muppet Show
3:00—World of Geo
4:00—The Vally Between
4:30—Beakman's World
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Neighbors
8:00—Newly Weds
8:30—Prism
9:10—Time Trax
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Feature Film
12:00—Allen

SUNDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—Little Rosey
2:30—Jonny Quest
3:00—Energy Express
3:40—Lucky Luke
4:00—American Chart Show
4:30—Tarzan
6:00—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
8:00—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:30—Struggle for Democracy
9:10—Renegade
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—One West Walkiki
11:15—The Bourne Identity
12:00—Sisters

MONDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—The Show With The Mouse
2:30—Cowboy of the Moomea
3:00—Gillette Sports Special
3:30—Riding High
4:00—Animal Show
4:30—Ocean Girl



Struggle for Democracy, Sunday 8:30 pm

5:15—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Neighbors
8:00—Murphy Brown
8:30—Babylon 5
9:10—Highlander
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Emergency Room(e.r.)
11:15—Homicide

TUESDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—Sandocan
2:30—C.R.O.
3:00—Skippy
3:30—The Album Show
4:30—Square One T.V.
5:15—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
8:00—Tilt
8:30—Encounter
9:10—Nature of Things

WEDNESDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—Jonny Quest
2:30—Super Dave
3:00—Secrets of Treasure Island
3:30—Spell Binder
4:00—Monsters Today
4:30—Border Town
6:00—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Neighbors
8:00—Grace under Fire
8:30—Challenges
9:10—Kung-Fu
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Land's End
11:00—American Gothic

THURSDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—New Kids on the Block
2:30—My Little Fairy Tale
3:00—America's Funniest People
3:30—He Shoot He Scores
4:00—I Love Lucy
4:30—The Boy from Andromeda
5:00—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Trivial Pursuit
8:00—Parenthood
8:30—Lois and Clark (Superman)
9:10—Winfrey Show
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Feature Film
12:00—Step By Step

FRIDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—Leo The Lion
2:30—Fred And Barney
3:00—Wish Bone
3:30—Lucky Luke
4:00—Family Matters
4:30—NBA
5:30—French Film
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Neighbors
8:00—The Health Show
8:30—Adventures of Brisco County
9:10—Sea Power
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Best Seller
11:15—Feature Film

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI
5:00—Secrets de famille
5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
6:00—Equinoxes

7:00—Le journal

7:15—Magazine
L'œil de Colomb

DIMANCHE

5:00—Secrets de famille
5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
6:00—Magazine
Faut pas rêver
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine pour tous
Ziva

LUNDI

5:00—Secrets de famille
5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
6:00—Thalassie
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine scientifique
Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

5:00—Secrets de famille
5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
6:00—Savoir plus santé
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Orient sur Seine

MERCREDI

5:00—Secrets de famille
5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
6:00—Ushuaia
7:00—Le journal
7:15—E = M6

JEUDI

5:00—L'invité de marque
5:30—Fort Boyard
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Le dessous des cartes

VENDREDI

5:30—L'empire du taureau
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Allo la terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV



Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 634149): *Losing Isaiah*
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 634149): *Mission Impossible*
- Plaza (Tel: 699238): *My Best Friend's Wedding*
- Concord I (Tel: 677420): *The Long Kiss Good Night*
- Concord II (Tel: 677420): *Fair Game*
- Galleria I (Tel: 634149): *Jungle 2 Jungle*
- Galleria II (Tel: 634149): *Men in Black*

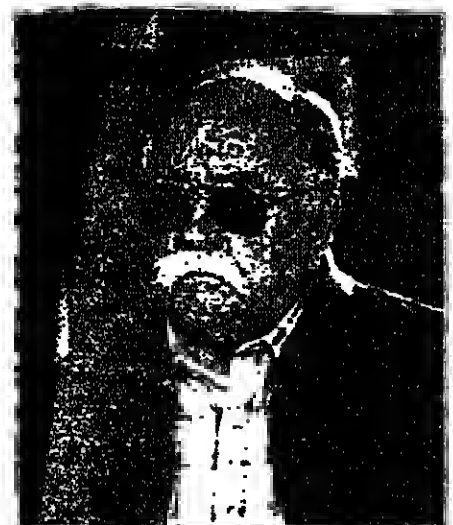
Movies & Videos



Reynolds, Cusack and Kline

In & Out

Howard Brackett's high school English students are astonished. Is it really true that their favorite teacher might be gay? But hey, he can't be gay. He's about to get married



Wilford Brimley

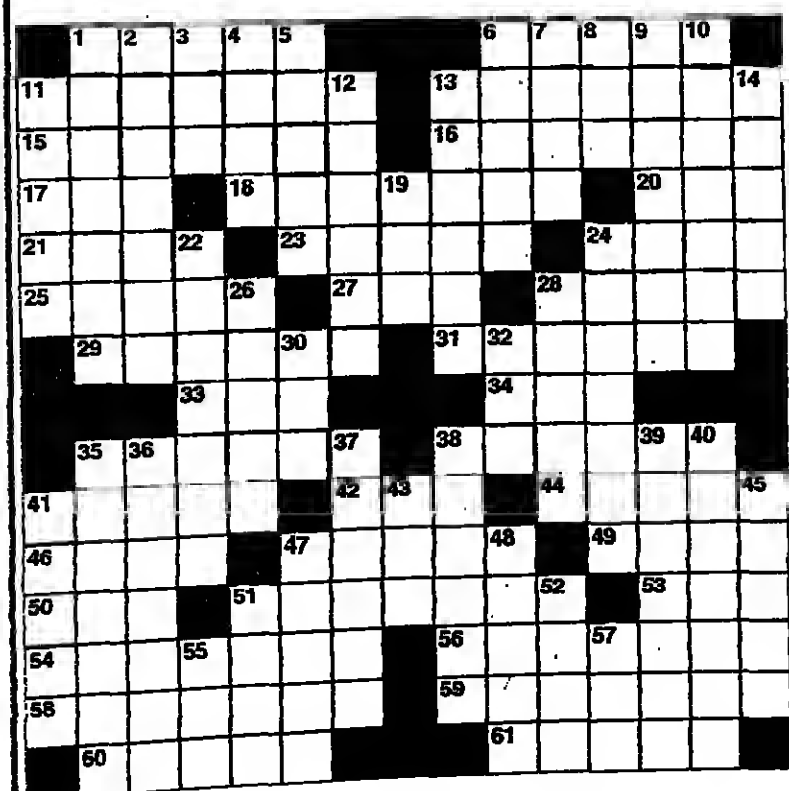


Shalom Harlow



Matt Dillon

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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ACROSS

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DOWN

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38 Lariets
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42 Article
44 Alluvial deposit
46 Toothed wheel
47 Garbo
49 Mend
50 Greenville, NC school letters
51 A cereal
53 Miss Piggy's word
54 Potent pollen producer
56 Popular toy
58 Globes
59 Pedal
60 High-spirited

ACROSS

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38 Drink in Dover
40 Twerp
42 Worn, but narrowly
44 Saunters
46 Bosc and seckel
47 — Benedict
48 Clip
49 Sir Laurence
50 Kind of service
51 Aqua —
52 Hankers
53 Boring tool
54 Juniper of the Bible
56 Tarasaddle
57 Crazier

DOWN

1 Handcuff
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5 Worn, but narrowly
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7 — Benedict
8 Clip
9 Sir Laurence
10 Kind of service
11 Aqua —
12 Hankers
13 Boring tool
14 Juniper of the Bible
16 Tarasaddle
17 Crazier

★ ★ — THIS WEEK'S — ★ ★
★ HOROSCOPE ★

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Sports activities dominate so get into an exercise program. There are lots of changes to be made and people are scurrying left and right. To avoid the chaos, stay well organized.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Your energy level is very high. The problem is that you don't want to exercise much discretion. Be careful, or you'll spend a lot of time cleaning up the mess. If the authorities want to change your life around, let them.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Don't stress about money. It's out there; all you have to do is get it. Do what your coach says. Explore new possibilities with a foreign friend. Something you previously thought impossible could happen.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). The competition's fierce. Take notes instead of arguing, and you'll win next time. Money starts becoming more available. Jump through the right hoops to get it.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Your work load's impossible. Focus on old jobs and new ones will get easier. Get a partner to help. Delegate. Make ends meet by getting a friend to pay more.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't hold back your true feelings. Declare an eternal fascination, if not a forever commitment. Practice. It's the only way to gain the skills.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Throw out superfluous items. Give your place a thorough cleaning. Have your true love over for dinner and serious planning.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are forceful and dynamic. Complete a project that's long overdue. Make plans with family. A problem that's been pestering you will clear up.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll have a compulsion to gamble. Only bet on a sure thing. Use your experience to win. A private conversation provides the answer.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are confident, bold and creative. An outrageous suggestion surprises your boss, but has merit. Carry out plans. If you do what you said, you'll win.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Admit you don't know how and ask for help. Explain to an older person who doesn't understand. The money you've been seeking is available.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Work within an enthusiastic team and break through to victory. You're lucky, but your last excuse has been used up. Produce the results.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Take careful notes. To get the benefits you need, talk to a bureaucrat. Don't take on a friend's financial problems. He or she can handle it.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: You're awesome. Make changes at home to set things right, finally. Make a romantic commitment, so you can get on about your plans.

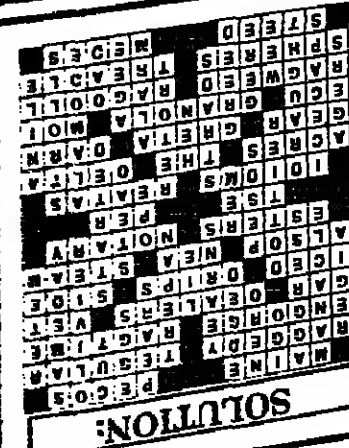
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Tantrums?



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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Un rabbin chez le guide spirituel du Hamas pour la paix

Un émissaire du grand rabbin d'Israël a eu mardi dernier à Gaza un entretien sans précédent avec Cheikh Yassine, le guide spirituel du Hamas. Il a apporté avec lui une lettre dans laquelle le grand rabbin prie le leader islamiste de «faire tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour cesser la violence, qui provoque des effusions de sang des femmes, des enfants et des vieillards». «Je vous parle de croyant à croyant, pas d'homme politique à homme politique. Notre seul but est de réaliser la volonté de Dieu, qui veut la paix entre les peuples», écrit encore le grand rabbin. Cheikh Yassine a répondu en réitérant «qu'aussi longtemps que notre peuple subit l'occupation, nous avons le droit de résister». Et il a offert à l'envoyé du grand rabbin une «trêve» si Israël permettait la création d'un État palestinien indépendant dans les territoires.

Tenant compte de la sensibilité de l'Autorité palestinienne qui redoute tout dialogue entre Israël et le Hamas, Cheikh Yassine a refusé d'accepter des mains de l'émissaire la lettre du grand rabbin (notre photo). Il a indiqué qu'une telle missive devait être remise au président Yasser Arafat. La rencontre entre l'émissaire, le rabbin Frumman, colon de Cisjordanie et le leader du Hamas, s'est déroulée devant le domicile de Cheikh Yassine dans un quartier pauvre de Gaza. Le rabbin est arrivé sans aucune escorte de sécurité et il a été autorisé à prier dans le «Club de la Société islamique» voisin, avant de rencontrer le guide spirituel. Il a pris la main du cheikh, assis dans sa chaise roulante et il a déclaré : «Nous espérons que ce nouveau canal de communication entre rabbins et cheikhs permettra de résoudre certains problèmes qu'il est difficile de régler par les voies politiques».



Nouvelles du Pays

Société

L'armée cachée des regards perdus

Plus de 6000 clochards et mendiants errent dans les rues des grandes villes pour glaner de quoi survivre. Radioscopie d'une population de l'ombre.

Il a le regard d'une enfance fanée. Ses vêtements sont délavés et ses cheveux en désordre. A toute personne qu'il rencontre, il demande la charité. Et après avoir beaucoup insisté, il arrive parfois à obtenir quelques pièces. Quand il voit un policier, il se carapate pour éviter les ennuis : «Je ne veux pas finir dans un établissement pénitentiaire», explique Ahmad, 35 ans, qui ne sait pas écrire. Rien que survivre pour ce même de 15 ans, qui vit la galère depuis la mort de sa mère en 1995. D'abord privé de ses droits les plus fondamentaux, la famille et l'école, il est exploité sans scrupules par son père : «Il m'oblige à mendier et me rappelle si je reviens à la maison sans argent», confie Ahmad en montrant un bleu sur son visage.

En Jordanie, de nombreux mineurs, comme Ahmad, se retrouvent sur le pavé et peu à peu finissent dans le monde des mendiants et des clochards. Selon les chiffres de 1996 du département de la protection sociale, ils seraient plus de 5000, tous âgés de moins de 17 ans, à traîner comme ça dans les rues. Cette année, 560 enfants clochardisés se sont ajoutés à ce triste cortège, tandis que chez les adultes, dont une majorité de femmes, les mendiants dépasseraient le millier de personnes.



En 1997, 560 enfants-mendiants sont venus grossir les rangs de la manche.

«Une des mendiants que je connaissais avait parfois sur elle plus de 1000 JD», se souvient Ali Samarah, chef du département de la mendicite au

Ministère des affaires sociales, dans l'ensemble, il s'agit de professionnels qui recrutent et exploitent des enfants et des handicapés pour gagner beaucoup d'argent.

Apparemment, ils opèrent en toute liberté. Lutte de répression efficace et constituent des réseaux très bien organisés dans toutes les grandes villes du royaume : «C'est vrai, il faudrait prendre des mesures pour empêcher le phénomène de s'étendre», analyse Ali Samarah. Autre problème : la plupart des clochards ont de graves problèmes psychologiques. Une population qui nécessite un traitement adapté mais les responsables sociaux font remarquer aussi qu'il n'y a pas d'établissement correspondant.

Les moyens du département de la protection sociale restent donc très limités. Il n'existe pas vraiment de centres sociaux en Jordanie pour s'occuper des SDF. Quant à la mendicite, elle est théoriquement interdite. En collaboration avec la sécurité publique, la protection sociale organise des «tournées». Deux fois par semaine, un bus ramasse les mendiants : les enfants sont envoyés en maison de correction et les adultes en prison. Mais ce procédé n'existe qu'à Amman et ne représente qu'un pis-aller face au nombre croissant des mendiants de la rue.

Nahed Al-Khlouf

SDF : le clochard à la française

SDF : Sans Domicile Fixe.

Depuis quelques années maintenant, ces trois lettres sont malheureusement tombées dans le langage courant. La France compte plus de 200.000 SDF aujourd'hui. Ils dorment sur les trottoirs à l'intérieur de vieux cartons ou dans les bouches de métro pour avoir plus chaud. Ce ne sont pas toujours de vieux poches trépassés qui peinent à vivre. Ça l'est d'ailleurs de moins en moins. Les jeunes rejoignent régulièrement les rangs des SDF. A moins de 25 ans, ils n'ont pas droit au RMI (Revenu Minimum d'Insertion). Sans soutien familial, sans travail, sans formation, sans espoir, ils sont donc nombreux à solliciter les associations caritatives.

Après plusieurs mois d'attente, les SDF se retrouvent de temps à autres dans des foyers d'hébergement. Ils y passent deux ou trois nuits, rencontrent les assistants sociaux, puis la galère reprend. Les foyers, par manque de places et devant la demande toujours croissante, ne peuvent les garder plus longtemps. Alors, il faut se débrouiller pour survivre.

Michel, lui, ne supporte pas les foyers. Il refuse de se y rendre qu'à dormir dehors.

Cela fait plus de vingt ans qu'il traîne ses oripeaux un peu partout en France et il aspire à un peu de tranquillité. Installé par terre, adossé contre une vitrine de magasin, il joue de l'accordéon pour se payer une chambre dans l'hôtel le moins cher de la ville. «Aujourd'hui, on ne se fait plus d'amis dans la rue», explique-t-il derrière ses petites lunettes de vieux combinard.

Dans les centres d'accueil, le racket est fréquent et dehors ce sont «les drogués qui en veulent à ton fric». C'est en tout cas le constat de François, 17 ans seulement mais qui en paraît dix de plus. Dans la principale rue de Lille (nord de la France), il arrête les gens pour leur vendre des poèmes ou des calendriers photocopiés : on lui répond à peine ou on lui tend deux ou trois pièces. Si la journée est généreuse, il pourra se payer un sandwich et un bon lit chaud. Le lendemain, la même routine l'attend. L'Insee (Institut national des statistiques) estime qu'il y a en France 600.000 jeunes de 18 à 25 ans qui sont sans ressources propres.

Le Jourdain

Art

Une expo pour tout l'or de la Catalogne

Picasso, Miró, Dali, des noms qui font rêver. Des monstres de l'art contemporain avec au moins deux points communs : ils sont tous Catalans et parmi une vingtaine d'autres artistes de sang, ils sont à la Galerie nationale de Jordanie.

Les lignes, les formes, les couleurs, les styles, les époques, tout est différent. Mais regroupés dans un même lieu, toutes ces œuvres forment un superbe condensé de l'art catalan contemporain. Cette fabuleuse exposition des plus grands artistes de la Catalogne mérite bien son nom d'«Ara Mediterranea» : l'or de la Méditerranée.

Le travail de ces 24 maîtres nous offre un bouquet d'œuvres de notre siècle. Peinture, sculpture, architecture ou lithographie, toutes ces expressions artistiques caractérisent en même temps un véritable professionnalisme et le besoin d'offrir aux hommes de nouveaux espaces esthétiques.

Comment alors ne pas s'exclamer devant une telle brochure de célébrités : d'Antonin Gaudí, le plus grand représen-

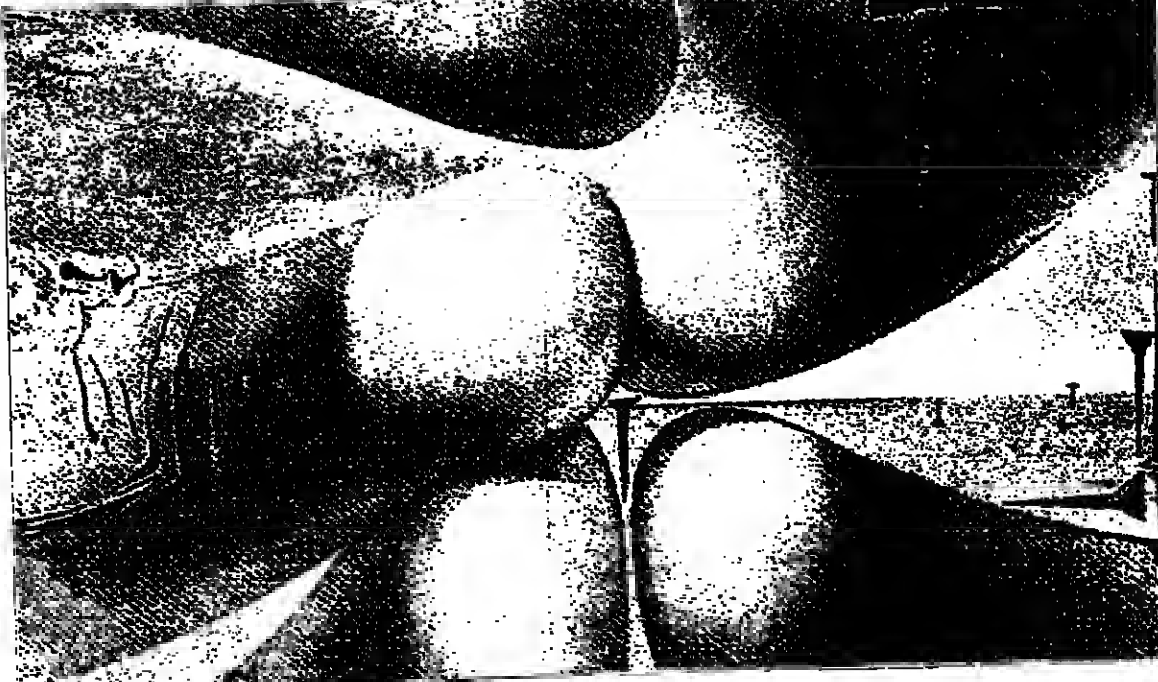
tant de l'art moderne et le principal pionnier de l'avant-garde actuelle, à la folie surréaliste de Salvador Dalí en passant par l'exubérant Clavé et le symbolisme de Tàpies, sans oublier Picasso et Miró ? Bref, un plateau d'une extraordinaire qualité.

Une première en Jordanie ? La princesse Wijdan, femme du prince Ali, l'un des cousins du roi, a apprécié sans aucun doute, mais elle fait remarquer que le royaume a déjà accueilli les œuvres d'artistes égyptiens, peut-être pas aussi renommés mais tout aussi remarquables.

L'art catalan est à l'image de la Catalogne, un mélange de cultures et de peuples mais avec un caractère authentique, qui provoque une grande émotion dans la public. Chaque jour, cinq ou six écoles viennent visiter l'exposition. Aidés de leurs professeurs, certains découvrent l'art pour la pre-

mière fois. «C'est tout un apprentissage pour les générations futures», assure Dirar Qanah, directeur de la Galerie nationale.

Après la Jordanie, l'exposition ira en Syrie, au Maroc, en Tunisie, en Egypte, en



Turquie et ensuite seulement en Europe : exposition itinérante pour diffuser la bonne nouvelle de l'art catalan et la culture originale d'un peuple.

Sous le patronage de la Reine Noor et avec la coopé-

ration du gouvernement de Catalogne, l'Institut catalan de la Méditerranée, l'Institut Cervantes et l'Agence espagnole de la coopération internationale, l'exposition «Ara Mediterranea» : l'art catalan jusqu'au 28 octobre à l'étage

de la Galerie nationale de Jordanie, à Djebel Lweibdeh-Mountaza Circle. Tous les jours sauf mardi, de 9h à 17h. Entrée libre.

Amineh Ishlay

Elections

A l'appel de la tribu

Avec le boycott de nombreux partis de l'opposition dont les islamistes, les tribus ont repris du poil de la bête. Pour la plupart, elles ont organisé des sortes d'élections primaires afin de désigner leur meilleur représentant.

Le jour J, pour beaucoup d'électeurs, l'affaire sera déjà dans le sac et l'acte de voter, une simple formalité. Pourquoi ? C'est le système tribal qui veut ainsi, un système qui joue un rôle décisif dans la réussite ou l'échec d'un candidat.

En règle générale, la tribu est composée de plusieurs familles avec différents noms. Un membre d'une de ces familles, qu'il soit indépendant ou appartienne à un parti politique, peut se présenter à une élection. Il doit impérativement avoir une forte position au sein de l'ensemble de la tribu mais également au sein de la région qu'il va représenter. Il y a une trentaine d'années, seul le cheikh de tribu (généralement le plus âgé ou le plus expérimenté) avait le droit d'être candidat. Le reste de la tribu n'avait qu'à le soutenir sans mot dire. Aujourd'hui, les candidats sont souvent des personnes qui ont travaillé dans le gouvernement, l'armée, la police mais aussi des hommes d'affaires, des médecins ou des ingénieurs qui sur le long terme ont su établir un puissant réseau de relations sur lequel ils peuvent s'appuyer pendant la campagne électorale.

Pour être officiellement désigné, le candidat réunit les hommes les plus âgés de la tribu. Chacun d'eux représente une des branches du clan. Ensemble, ils évaluent les compétences du candidat, ses chances de victoire et les moyens d'y parvenir. Dès qu'il obtient le vote de confiance de la tribu, c'est au tour des femmes d'intervenir. Elles seront elles aussi réunies par le candidat qui leur explique les conclusions de la «haute» assemblée, ses valeurs, son programme électoral etc... Les femmes, ensuite, mettent au point un plan de bataille pour la campagne et se partagent les tâches. Parmi les plus importantes et qui est toujours prise en main par la femme du candidat : les visites.

Un fauteuil pour deux

Les femmes se rendent chez les habitants pour expliquer les intentions du candidat, répondre aux questions et discuter des conditions de vie, de politique, d'économie... Ces visites doivent couvrir toute la région. Les femmes sont aussi chargées de donner un coup de main le jour des élections dans les bureaux de vote, pour le dépouillement des suffrages etc...



A partir de 6 ou 7 tribus principales, l'écheveau des centaines de clans jordaniens semble indémêlable.

Néanmoins, le système tribal n'est pas inflexible. Il arrive parfois que plusieurs membres d'une même famille présentent leur candidature. Cet incident s'est produit en 1989 dans la famille : Samir Kassar, l'ancien ministre de l'Irrigation, voulait se présenter dans la circonscription de Balqa et l'écrivain Fakri Kassar, à Amman. Les

deux candidats se sont expliqués devant tous les membres réunis de la famille. Finalement, deux groupes de soutien ont été formés, un par circonscription. D'autres fois, les candidats refusent multiples fois à l'entrée de la tribu. Lors des dernières élections législatives, un des membres de la tribu, Bageen, a voulu être candidat, sans avoir consulté personne. Il a même refusé de rendre visite aux hommes les plus âgés pour obtenir leur accord. Les Bageen ont formé de «surdécisions» dans la tribu, convaincu ou on l'avait convaincu que sa famille (les Bageen) progressait plus qu'appartenait à l'ensemble de la tribu des Bageen) allait le soutenir puisque tout simplement il en faisait partie. Il s'est avéré plus tard que ce candidat imprévu avait été poussé par une autre famille de la tribu. La famille Bageen n'a pas voté et le candidat a échoué. L'histoire s'est terminée sur deux fausses notes : la victoire du rival qui n'était pas du clan et division de la tribu. Une affaire qui a laissé des cicatrices encore visibles cette année. Les Bageen ont pris du retard dans le choix de leur champion parce qu'ils ont dû d'abord réconcilier les familles en litige.

Au total, le système tribal apparaît plus que jamais comme une machine électorale bien huilée. En face, les partis, en raison du boycott de nombre d'entre eux, ne passent pas bien lours.

Rana Kassar-Bageen

C'est la vie

L'agenda culturel d'Amman
Festival du cinéma européen
au Centre culturel royal
Programme du 16 au 22 octobre

- 16 octobre : Me Mia Cravvy (Grèce), à 16h30
- Tengo una Casa (Espagne), à 20h00
- 17 octobre : Tengo una Casa, à 16h30
- Grosse Fatigue (France), à 20h00
- 18 octobre : Grosse Fatigue, à 16h30
- Il Grande Cocomero (Italie), à 20h00
- 19 octobre : Il Grande Cocomero, à 16h30
- Malambo (Autriche), à 20h00
- 20 octobre : Malambo, à 16h30
- Elvira Madigan (Suède) à 20h00
- 21 octobre : Elvira Madigan, à 16h30
- Raison et sentiments (Royaume-Uni), à 20h00
- 22 octobre : Raison et sentiments, à 16h30

Prix : 1 JD pour les adultes, gratuit pour les étudiants. Les recettes sont destinées au centre d'éducation spéciale de l'association des jeunes musulmanes, sous le patronage de la princesse Sarvath.

Cinéma

Cycle consacré au réalisateur Claude Chabrol. Une affaire de femmes avec Isabelle Huppert (1988). Pendant l'Occupation, une faiseuse d'anges est condamnée à mort par la justice. Mercredi 22 octobre à 20h30 au Centre culturel français. Tél. : 637009/636445/612658.

Retraite fame

By Ann W. O'Neill

LOS ANGELES—The proud, the lovers of a Hollywood legend, young. Last weekend, at a strip mall to begin their journey.

Their sponsor, the actor's wife, made a 200-mile road trip to Los Angeles.

But he has told the actor's wife that the actor's wife knew the actor's wife.

On 30 September, customer, at a gas station in the Valley. They were in the Valley. They were in the Valley. They were in the Valley.

The original plan was to race it that way change of heart.



George Barris, org on a replica of the customized for the



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Retracing James Dean's famous fateful journey

By Ann W. O'Neill

LOS ANGELES—They were the few, the proud, the lovers of cars that are old but fast and of a Hollywood legend who lived hard and died young. Last weekend, a dozen of them gathered at a ship mall to begin retracing James Dean's final journey.

Their sponsor, local car customizer George Barris, didn't make this year's Rebel Run, a 200-mile road trip from the San Fernando Valley to Cholame.

But he has told the story of the intense young actor's fateful final day so many times before that they know the details by heart.

On 30 September, 1955, Barris met Dean, a customer, at a gas station on Ventura Boulevard in the Valley. They loaded a spanking new aluminum-skinned Porsche Spyder onto a trailer and checked out Barris' custom paint job—the number 130 on the front, the nickname "Little Bastard" hand-lettered on the back.

The original plan had been to haul the Porsche to Salinas in central California, where Dean was to race it that weekend. But Dean had a change of heart.

"Jimmy says, 'I want to drive it up.' So we unloaded it. He jumped in the car and off he went, followed by the truck and the trailer. I waved goodbye and that was the last time I saw him," Barris said.

Riding with Dean was Rolf Wuthrich, a Porsche mechanic.

What happened between 5:30 and 6 p.m. that day at a Y intersection about 20 miles east of Paso Robles is now an indelible part of California lore: An engineering student in a black and white Ford sedan made an ill-advised left turn, Dean uttered his famous last words—"He's gotta see us"—and a sickening collision, nearly head-on, collapsed the front end of the Porsche, forcing the steering wheel into Dean's chest and snapping his neck. Wuthrich was injured but survived.

Death at the age of 24 made Dean a legend. Three days after he died, Warner Bros. released "Rebel Without a Cause," the second of his three films. He had just completed work on his third, "Giant."

That some still remember the anniversary of his demise 42 years ago is a testament to a culture's continuing fascination with fame, speed, youthful rebellion and tragic early death.

This year, Barris traveled to Dean's hometown—Fairmount, Indiana—for the annual James Dean Memorial Run. The Indiana festivity was his last film, Robert Mitchum, who died last summer, played director George Stevens.

In Los Angeles on Saturday the die-hard Dean fans and classic car buffs launched the first leg of their memorial run from a record store named Ear Candy. The shop is owned by Kip Brown, who drives a silver Mazda Miata and has been working for a decade on a book about Dean.

"I'm a big fan of his, but I'm not a psycho fan," Brown said. "I don't bow down and go, 'Jimmy!'"

"I've been a James Dean fan forever," gushed writer Pamela des Barres from behind a pair of retro sunglasses, a tattoo of Jesus on her shoulder. "I remember the minute he died. I was 8 years old, and I heard it on the radio. I said, 'Mom, who's that?'"

The Rebel Run has traced Dean's final route since 1980—taking one year off for lack of an organizer. This year, the turnout was better than it was a few years back, when Bob Carr and his wife, Leslie, were the only participants.

"I go for the drive," said Carr—a tall and twangy fellow who wore a T-shirt that boasted, "If I were a car, I'd be a classic"—who was in a 1938 Mercury Zephyr.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



George Barris, organizer of the James Dean Run, sits on a replica of the Porsche Spyder that he originally customized for the actor.

The unknown side of Goethe's life

By William Drozdiak

BERLIN—Among the giants of literature, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe remains unique. One of history's great Renaissance men, he achieved Olympian feats during his 83 years as a critic, journalist, painter, statesman, scientist and philosopher.

No wonder he is hailed as the ultimate European, a man who felt at ease in many cultures and lived life to the full extent of its possibilities. Goethe's relations with women are often cited as a primary inspiration behind his extraordinary achievements.

He fathered five children with Christiane Vulpius, though only one survived past birth. He courted many beautiful and intelligent women throughout his life. The writer sealed his masterpiece "Faust" with the final couplet, "Eternal Womanhood/ Leads us on high," which seemed to extol the opposite sex as the focus of man's noblest creative energies.

But a new study of Germany's most famous writer has shaken the literary establishment by declaring the poet's life and work were

really shaped by his suppressed homosexuality. In a nation that reveres Goethe as much as, if not more than, the British do William Shakespeare, author Karl Hugo Pruis hopes his biography will cause readers to see Goethe in a new light.

"I have broken one of our greatest taboos," Pruis said in an interview. "Goethe's homosexuality is unquestionably central to his life and work. But there has long been a conspiracy to cover this up because of the conviction that Germans would never accept that their favorite national poet was gay."

Pruis, a historian who spent a decade scrutinizing Goethe's writings, argues in "The Tiger's Tender Touch," which arrives in bookstores this week, that the 18th-century genius harbored serious phobias about women and found his greatest artistic and personal fulfillment through relationships with men. Pruis said Goethe's reputation as a dashing Don Juan is largely a myth. He insists the poet was actually afraid of women and never touched one until the ripe age of 39, when he was seduced by Christiane. And Pruis claims the



numerous love letters Goethe wrote to women were simply sentimental affections of his time, not true professions of amorous desire.

"Goethe was by no means a womanizer. He was a natural actor who loved the disguise," the author says. "So what if he was married? Oscar Wilde also married and had two kids, but that does not preclude the fact he was gay. We need to take Goethe down from his pedestal and see him for what he really

was. Then we will have a better understanding of his work and his times."

Pruis says Goethe married Christiane, who was 16 years his junior and often slept in a separate room, as a reluctant favor. In contrast, he says, Goethe confided the joy of physical love in letters to male friends and said his most sensual experience occurred when he went swimming naked with other young men in the lakes of Switzerland.

The defining relationship in Goethe's career as a writer, Pruis says, was an intensely passionate liaison with the Dusseldorf philosopher Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi. In response to a letter from Jacobi, who said he was "tenderly and deeply in love" with Goethe, Pruis quotes Goethe as expressing his "rapture and bliss" at being treated as the "love object" of his philosopher friend.

Goethe concluded many of his letters to Jacobi and other close male friends with the signature "warmest kisses" and other expressions of physical longing.

By challenging the received wisdom about Goethe, Pruis has attracted a good deal of criticism. Lothar Ehrlich, one of the nation's top literary historians, from Goethe's home town of Weimar, calls the book "wrongheaded" in its conviction that the cultural icon was masking his true sexual orientation from the public eye. "Goethe lived in a uniquely sentimental age: what he wrote about men was not necessarily signs of homophilia but merely the spirit of the Storm and Stress movement of his time," Ehrlich said.

"It's true that Goethe may have been confused about his sexual identity in his younger years, but it is foolish to conclude that passionate love for other men was the driving force in his life and work."

Pruis, who wrote an acclaimed biography of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, says his critics are upset because he is challenging Goethe's pretense of virility whereas he is more interested in exploring whether Goethe's hidden sexual proclivity might have something to do with the richness of his imagination and literary canon. "People do not like to hear that their heroes are subject to the same habits and foibles as normal humans," Pruis said. "The image of Goethe has been carefully cultivated over the years as a cultural version of the German superman. I am just trying to tell people the truth about the man's real nature. I's no reason for them to feel so uncomfortable."

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